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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Presents 'New' Peace Initiative *[MENA]* 1
'Arafat Assured Iraq To Treat Foreigners Well *[AFP]* 1
Abu-Sharif on Iraqi Position on French Nationals *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
Official Reveals Iraqi Pressure on Gulf Issue *[Beirut Radio]* 2
PLO Affirms Support for Iraq, Questions U.S. *[INA]* 2
Al-Ghusayn Opposes Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait *[SPA]* 2
Further on Comments *[AFP]* 3
Delegation Meets in Tripoli With Soviet Envoy *[Sanaa VOP]* 3
Inter-DFLP Clash Injures Several in Tunis *[MENA]* 3

OPEC Affairs

Iran Opposes Saudi Emergency Meeting Request *[AFP]* 3
Saudi Arabia, Iran To Boost Deliveries *[AFP]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Bendjedid, Visiting Officials Discuss Iraq 5
Libyan Envoy *[Algiers TV]* 5
PLO's 'Arafat *[APS]* 5
Kuwaiti Prime Minister *[APS]* 5
Bendjedid Receives Saudi Envoy *[APS]* 5
Sudanese President *[Algiers Radio]* 5
Kuwaiti Premier Arrives in Algiers 16 Aug *[APS]* 5
Assembly Official Receives Iraqi, Kuwaiti Envoys *[APS]* 5
FIS Rally Condemns Foreign 'Interference' in Gulf *[Algiers TV]* 6
FIS Urges Muslims To Topple 'Collusive' Regimes *[Algiers Radio]* 6

Egypt

Mubarak Holds News Conference 17 Aug *[MENA]* 7
'Abd-al-Majid Discusses Gulf Situation 8
17 Aug News Conference *[MENA]* 8
19 Aug Statement *[MENA]* 9
Ministry Issues Statement on Dispatch of Troops *[MENA]* 10

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Protests Blockade to UN Leader *[JANA]* 10
Kuwaiti Premier Arrives in Tripoli 19 Aug *[SPA]* 11

Morocco

Ministry Denies Maghreb Gulf Plan Exists *[MAP]* 11
Libya's Al-Talhi Brings Al-Qadhdhafi Message 11
Arrives 18 Aug *[Rabat Radio]* 11
Meets Hassan *[Rabat TV]* 11

IRAQ

Saddam Sets Conditions for Foreigners' 'Release' *[Baghdad Radio]* 12
Austrians, Swedish, Swiss Allowed To Leave *[INA]* 14
Iraqis Bar U.S. Officials, Nationals Meeting *[Jerusalem International]* 14
Foreigners Instructed To Assemble in Hotels *[Baghdad Radio]* 14
Foreign Diplomats in Kuwait To Lose Immunity *[INA]* 14
French in Baghdad May Be Moved to Al-Basrah *[Paris Radio]* 14
Government Allows Some Foreigners To Travel 14
Indonesians *[Baghdad Radio]* 14
Some Argentines *[Baghdad Radio]* 15
Ministry Warns Boycott Will Hurt Foreigners Too *[Baghdad Radio]* 15
U.S. Fires on Oil Tankers; Oil Minister Reacts *[INA]* 15
'Aziz Appeals to UN on Harassment of Tankers *[INA]* 16
Paper Says U.S. Naval Blockade To Fail *[INA]* 16
INA Reports 'Aziz Remarks on Chemical Weapons *[INA]* 17
Foreign Sources Cite Assassination Rumors, Desertions *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Cairo Paper on Defecting Soldier's Comments *[Beirut Radio]* 18
Official Says Popular Army Reaches 1.5 Million *[Baghdad Radio]* 18
Volunteers Dispatched, Receive Training *[INA]* 18
Minister Reacts to Sharon Call for 'Action' *[Baghdad Radio]* 18
Kuwaiti Al-Sabah Family Property Sequestrated *[INA]* 19
Kuwait City May Be Transferred Into Free Zone *[INA]* 20
INA Carries Saddam Letters to Iranian Leaders 20
21 Apr 20
19 May *[INA]* 21
Yemeni Envoy Arrives, Shows Support for Saddam *[INA]* 23

ISRAEL

Official Calls Use of Hostages 'Barbaric Act' *[Jerusalem TV]* 24
Cabinet Views Attempt To Embroil Israel in War *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 24
Government 'Worried' King Husayn Lacks Control *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Jordanian Soldier Killed, Second Captured *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 24
Cabinet Told Infiltration Unconnected to Gulf *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Levi Calls For Immediate Gas Mask Distribution *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Defense Says Gas Masks Not Necessary at Present *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24

JORDAN

Decline in Port Activity Reported at Al-'Aqabah 26
17 Aug *[JORDAN TIMES]* 26
Aug 18 *[AFP]* 26
Trucks Leave for Iraq *[AFP]* 27
Loading, Unloading 'Normal' *[Amman Radio]* 27
Prince Hasan Says UN Sanctions Accepted *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 27
Official Says Food, Drugs Not Included *[JORDAN TIMES]* 28
Al-Qasim Protests Interception of Sudanese Ship *[Amman TV]* 28
Foreign Nationals Continue Fleeing Iraq 29
9,000 18 Aug *[AFP]* 29
French Nationals *[AFP]* 29
12,600 19 Aug *[AFP]* 29
Crown Prince Hasan Holds News Conference 15 Aug *[Amman Radio]* 29
King Husayn Receives Indian Foreign Minister *[Amman TV]* 36

SYRIA

Al-Asad Chairs NPF Meeting To Discuss Crisis *[Damascus TV]* 37
Al-Asad, Yemen's Salih Discuss Gulf Over Phone *[Damascus TV]* 37
Khaddam on Talks With Rafsanjani, Gulf Crisis *[Damascus Radio]* 37
PRC Delegation Participates in Economic Talks 37

Confers With Planning Minister *[SANA]* 37
Meets With Prime Minister *[Damascus Radio]* 38
Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives in Damascus *[Damascus Radio]* 38
Muslim Brotherhood Denounces Foreign Presence *[AL-DUSTUR 17 Aug]* 38
Communist Party Denounces Iraqi 'Adventure' *[SANA]* 38
Paper Says Iraq Should Cancel Kuwait Annexation *[Damascus Radio]* 38
Iraq Urged To Withdraw, Stop Intervention *[Damascus Radio]* 39
Paper Blames Iraq for Foreign Presence in Gulf *[SANA]* 40
Press Hopes Iraq Will Heed 'Voice of Reason' *[Damascus Radio]* 40
Commentary Assails Iraqi Detention of Foreigners *[Damascus Radio]* 41

SOUTH ASIA

Bangladesh

Military Delegation Leaves for Saudi Arabia *[Dhaka Radio]* 42
Diplomats in Iraq To Visit Kuwait Colleagues *[AFP]* 42
Further on Visit To Kuwait *[AFP]* 42
Austerity Measures Imposed in Light of Crisis *[AFP]* 42

India

Singh Wants Iraqi Troops Withdrawn From Kuwait 43
Addresses National Front Meeting *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Opposes Military Solution *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Gujral To Visit Kuwait, 'Likely' To Meet Saddam *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Ambassador to Kuwait Details Living Conditions *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Minister on Evacuation of Indians From Mideast *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Spokesman Says All 10,000 Indians in Iraq Safe *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Congress-I Wants Nonaligned Initiative on Gulf *[Delhi Radio]* 44
First Gulf Crude Oil Arrives Since Crisis *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Iranian Crude Arrives *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Envoy to Venezuela Asks for 14,000 Barrels Daily *[AFP]* 44
Minister on Efforts To Buy Gulf States Oil *[Delhi Radio]* 44

Iran

POW Release Continues; Welcomed by Citizens 44
Headquarters Issues Communique *[Tehran Radio]* 44
Welcome Preparations *[Tehran Radio]* 45
Government To Aid in Employment *[Tehran Radio]* 45
IRNA Reports on Homecoming 45
More Iranian POWs Released *[IRNA]* 45
Red Cross Unable To Verify *[AFP]* 46
1,000 Iraqi POWs to ICRC *[IRNA]* 46
Red Crescent Urges Release of 5,000 *[IRNA]* 46
ICRC Ready for 8,000 Daily *[IRNA]* 46
Second Group Released *[IRNA]* 47
Release Sought From Quarantine *[IRNA]* 47
Paper Urges Speedy POW Excange *[IRNA]* 47
Iraq Releases Third Group *[Tehran Radio]* 47
Exchange Agreement Announced *[IRNA]* 47
Iraq Releases 1,000 More *[IRNA]* 47
Release Continues *[IRNA]* 48
Officials Welcome, React to Prisoners Release 48
'Text' of Rafsanjani Message *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Rafsanjani Welcoming Remarks *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Ahmad Khomeyni Welcomes *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Papers Comment *[IRNA]* 50
Kuwait-Based Iranians Return via Iraq *[IRNA]* 50
Guard Corps Ready To Face Gulf 'Aggression' *[Tehran Radio]* 50

Iraqi Troop Withdrawal Continues in Border Areas 51
Ilam Heights *[IRNA]* 51
Khosravi Pullout Begins *[IRNA]* 51
Withdrawal Continues *[IRNA]* 51
Preparation in Dehloran *[IRNA]* 51
Shalamcheh, Kushk *[IRNA]* 51
Parts of Khosravi Region *[IRNA]* 52
Pullout Continues From Ilam *[IRNA]* 52
South, West Nearly Complete *[IRNA]* 52
Velayati Describes Correspondence With Saddam *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Security Council Session Discusses Gulf Crisis *[Tehran Radio]* 53
Khalkhali, MPs Denounce Saddam, U.S. Presence *[IRNA]* 53
Musavi-Ardebili Condemns Iraq, U.S. 'Aggression' *[Tehran Radio]* 53
ECO Foreign Ministers Condemn Iraqi Occupation *[IRNA]* 54
Commentary on 'New Chapter' in Iraqi Relations *[Tehran International]* 54
Press Condemns Foreign Military Moves in Gulf *[IRNA]* 55

Pakistan

Foreign Minister Briefs Senate on Gulf Situation *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
President on Troop Dispatch to Saudi Arabia *[Islamabad Radio]* 55
4,500 Pakistanis Evacuated From Kuwait, Iraq *[AFP]* 56
Kuwaiti Special Envoy Meets With President *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Kuwaiti Oil Minister Refutes Iraqi Claim *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Bhutto Rejects Interim Caretaker Government 56
Refuses To Recognize *[AFP]* 56
Demands Neutral Elections Oversight *[Tokyo KYODO]* 57
Says Party to Challenge Dismissal *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Misuse of Funds by Bhutto Government Detailed *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Jatoi Discusses Elections, Bhutto Role *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Jatoi on Sindh Situation, IJI Alliance Meeting *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
MQM Chairman Says Jatoi Offered Cabinet Position *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Former Opposition Parties Reassess Strategy 58
JUI To Remain Allied to COP *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
To Contest Elections, Cooperate *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
To Field 'Consensus' Candidates *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Existing Constituencies Kept in Election Plan *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
Army Withdrawn From Parts of Karachi 17 Aug *[Islamabad Radio]* 59
Paper Reports Heavy Firing at Kashmir Border *[THE MUSLIM 18 Aug]* 59

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Presents 'New' Peace Initiative

NC1708155690 Cairo MENA in English 1424 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Aug (MENA)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to the Palestinain president Yasir 'Arafat, today said that the PLO still believes that there was a chance for a political settlement to the conflict in the Gulf, provided that the foreign forces in the area stop the war trumpeting. In a statement carried by Monte Carlo radio, he added that 'Arafat, in messages to leaders of the permanent member states of the UN Security Council and EC, spoke of a new initiative aiming at bringing about an Arab settlement to the crisis. Abu-Sharif did not give any details on the proposed initiative.

'Arafat Assured Iraq To Treat Foreigners Well

NC1808171090 Paris AFP in English 1651 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Tunis, Aug 18 (AFP)—Iraq has given Yasir 'Arafat "formal assurances" that foreigners held there and in occupied Kuwait will be safe and treated well, an aide to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chairman said Saturday. In a statement published here, Mr. 'Arafat's adviser, Bassam Abu-Sharif, said the PLO leader was "following the case with concern".

Envoys of French President Francois Mitterrand have said the PLO is one of the channels through which France is trying to persuade Iraqi authorities to let foreigners, regardless of nationality, leave Iraq and Kuwait. The French representatives arrived here earlier in the week.

Iraq has said it will "retain" foreigners to discourage a military strike from U.S.-led multi-national forces pouring into the region since Baghdad invaded Kuwait more than two weeks ago. Mr. Abu-Sharif denied press reports that Palestinians in Kuwait were being drafted into a "people's militia" set up by the Iraqi Army to maintain order there. He said the reports "aim to harm the PLO's image and role as mediator".

Earlier, Mr. 'Arafat dispatched political advisor Hani al-Hasan to the Gulf to brief regional leaders on a PLO peace initiative in the Gulf crisis. Informed Palestinian sources said the aide's first stop would be Saudi Arabia. The PLO gave no details on the peace plan drafted by PLO leaders Friday to "avoid a destructive war in the region".

But Western diplomats said it took up an Arab League proposal to form a committee of Arab heads of state to work on the crisis. The panel would group the three Maghreb countries—Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco—as well as Yemen, Jordan and the PLO.

Abu-Sharif on Iraqi Position on French Nationals

JN1908134390 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, says that the PLO has received guarantees that all French nationals in Iraq and Kuwait will be treated as friends and can live normal lives. Antoine Abu-Samrah asks Bassam Abu-Sharif about the nature of those guarantees.

[Begin recording] [Abu-Samrah] What do you mean, in practical terms, with the reassurances you have given about the French nationals in Kuwait and Iraq?

[Abu-Sharif] In fact, president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has tried and is still trying to find an Arab political solution to the Gulf crisis. While he was making these efforts, he was contacted by a number of European leaders. He specifically received a message from President Mitterrand in which he expressed great concern about the Gulf crisis and the future of French nationals in Kuwait and Baghdad. President Abu-'Ammar undertook efforts for the sake of the safety and security of French nationals by getting in touch with his brother President Saddam Husayn, who sent him a reply yesterday in which he confirmed that French men and women in Iraq and Kuwait would be treated as friends, as has been the case in the past, and that Iraqis would continue to deal with the French nationals on that basis.

[Abu-Samrah] Can the letter sent by President Saddam Husayn to president Yasir 'Arafat be made public?

[Abu-Sharif] In fact, the content of this letter has been officially transmitted through the French ambassador in Tunis to President Mitterrand.

[Abu-Samrah] Do you not believe that the reassurances constitute an Iraqi attempt to blow up Western solidarity? I mean, because France has a distinguished position from the others, its nationals will also be distinguished from the others?

[Abu-Sharif] In fact, the French are still dealing very cautiously with the crisis. However, they are very clear about the means to a solution. This is very important. Iraq wants a peaceful solution but the United States, which is massing military forces, seems to be determined to use military force. This will lead to a real catastrophe in the region. We hope that President Mitterrand will convince President Bush that there is a chance to start negotiations to reach a peaceful solution. All those who engage in escalation toward a military solution do not want the Middle East to have peace or stability. But they want destruction and the United States' military and political hegemony over the region.

[Abu-Samrah] Let us go back to the French nationals. If there is no danger against French nationals, as the reassurances you have received from Baghdad say, why cannot they be released?

[Abu-Sharif] President Yasir 'Arafat is following up the matter, and I do not have the right to discuss the details now. Let us give quiet diplomacy a chance to act and influence. However, as I said, we fully trust the Iraqi reassurances because we know that when they say something, the Iraqi officials follow through.

[Abu-Samrah] But why does Baghdad not give these reassurances itself? If things deteriorate, what stops Baghdad from saying that it did not say anything to you and did not give any guarantees?

[Abu-Sharif] President Yasir 'Arafat was asked to discuss this issue. And, subsequently, he did discuss it, and President Mitterrand was given the answer through president Yasir 'Arafat.

[Abu-Samrah] Thank you. [end recording]

Official Reveals Iraqi Pressure on Gulf Issue

NC1908163990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Excerpts] PLO Executive Committee member Juwayyid al-Ghusayn today said that Iraq's occupation of Kuwait is illegal. This is the PLO's first direct criticism of Iraq. PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had refused to condemn the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

It is estimated that there are 700,000 Palestinians living in the Gulf, about half of whom are now in Kuwait.

Another high-ranking PLO official residing in the Gulf has stated that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn addressed a veiled threat to the PLO not to join Arab states in condemning Iraq. The official, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the Iraqis told the PLO that it must remain allied to Iraq because it still hosts and protects several Palestinian establishments.

PLO Affirms Support for Iraq, Questions U.S.

JN1908201190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Tunis, 19 Aug (INA)—The PLO has reiterated support for President Saddam Husayn's initiative for an overall settlement to the region's problems under which Israel would leave occupied Arab territory simultaneously with the departure of U.S. forces from Arab territory.

To mark the end of PLO meetings in Tunis today, the PLO issued a statement calling President Saddam Husayn's initiative a momentous Arab event. The statement cited the initiative's positive call for a drastic solution to the Palestinian people's suffering and a resolution to regional conflicts in accordance with the principles of international legitimacy.

The PLO said it is strange that the the United States is using the pretext of defending international legitimacy to cover a huge naval and military buildup, when over a quarter century it has thwarted the UN Security Council resolutions critical of Zionist terror and occupation of Palestinian and other land and violation of Palestinian rights.

The statement stated: The Palestinian leadership is pursuing efforts to safeguard Arab solidarity and pan-Arab security against the threats of hostile forces that seek not so much to protect Arab interests and countries as to ensure their control and to loot their wealth to advance the strategic objectives of these forces.

It said there is no lack of evidence to show that the United States has consistently exercised its prerogative of the veto at the UN Security Council to protect Israel.

The PLO statement said the emergency Cairo summit does not even merit comment. Three heads of state were denied the right to talk or have their proposals put to a vote, as they would not countenance the deployment of American and other Western forces on Arab territory, the statement said.

Al-Ghusayn Opposes Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait

LD1908221190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2114 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Aug (SPA)—In the first official Palestinian reaction to the invasion by Iraq of Kuwait, a senior Palestinian official has said that "the Palestinian people, without exception, stand against the occupation of fraternal Kuwait."

Juwayd al-Ghusayn, member of the PLO Executive Committee and chairman of the Palestine National Fund, said: "We support Kuwaiti legitimacy and we are seeking by all means to secure a rapid political solution to end the crisis."

In an interview today with the Qatari paper 'AL-RAYA', due to be published tomorrow in Al-Dawhah and circulated by KUNA today, he said that "the support by the PLO for Iraq's pan-Arab and national positions does not absolutely mean supporting Iraq in occupying and annexing Kuwait by force, affirming that this is an illegal measure."

The senior Palestinian official wonders: "Would it be reasonable for us, at a time when we are rejecting and fighting for an end to the Israeli occupation of the land of Palestine, to stand up in support of the occupation of Arab lands by another Arab country?"

In reply to a question on whether there is a Palestinian militia in action in Kuwait, Al-Ghusayn said: "These are false accusations devoid of any truth and I challenge anyone claiming that there is a Palestinian in military uniform inside Kuwait or having taken part in the invasion alongside the Iraqi forces."

Concerning the current position of the PLO regarding the crisis in the Gulf, Al-Ghusayn said: As representatives of the Palestinian people it is our duty to extinguish any Arab fire and to take part in the required Arab

solution. Frankly, we support Kuwaiti legitimacy and we stand against any occupation of Kuwait or elsewhere.

In reply to a question about whether the reservations of the Palestinian leadership to the decision to condemn Iraq would adversely affect the predicament of the Palestinian communities in the Gulf states, Al-Ghusayn said: "I affirm to you that the positions of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and those of all the Arab states are principled and firm positions which will not change with respect to their support for the cause of the Palestinian people as the first and central cause of the Arabs. All realize that the Palestinian people have a sacred cause, supported by all the Arabs. I do not at all believe that there will be any effect on the sons of the Palestinian people in the Gulf states because since the start of the Palestinian revolution we have had only support and assistance from these states.

Further on Comments

NC2008124290 Paris AFP in English 0959 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Aug 20 (AFP)—A senior PLO official on Monday called on Iraqi troops to withdraw from Kuwait, saying the occupation was illegal and not in Baghdad's interests.

"It is essential to get the Iraqi forces out of Kuwait. The occupation is illegal. It is in the interests of Iraq and the Arab world for the Iraqi forces to withdraw," PLO executive member Juwayid al-Ghusayn said.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation, which has close ties with Baghdad, has so far refrained from condemning Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and has attempted unsuccessfully to mediate in the crisis.

Mr. al-Ghusayn, in an interview from his office in Abu Dhabi, also called on foreign forces to pull out of the Gulf, saying the differences between Iraq and Kuwait that prompted the August 2 invasion should be resolved "as soon as possible" by an Arab mission.

"We should avoid clashes and respect each country's borders," he said. "This is not a battlefield. This is a lively and important area for the world. Foreign forces must not stay here to dominate the area."

In a statement issued in Tunis on Sunday, the PLO charged that resentment over its mediation bid had prompted the expulsion of Palestinians from Gulf countries

But Mr. al-Ghusayn, chairman of Palestine National Fund and the PLO's de facto finance minister, said he was "not aware of any Palestinians being expelled."

He also "categorically" denied witness reports that Palestinians were involved in militias helping Iraqi troops police Kuwait city.

Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territoires have staged big demonstrations in support of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn since the crisis began.

Delegation Meets in Tripoli With Soviet Envoy

NC1908174890 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] A meeting was held in Tripoli yesterday morning between a Palestinian delegation led by Brother 'Abdallah Hurani, PLO Executive Committee member, and Mikhail Sytenko, special envoy of the Soviet leadership, who is currently visiting the Libyan capital.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of Palestinian and Soviet views on current events in the Arab region, particularly the Gulf events, was conducted. The discussion also touched on the Palestinian initiative proposed by Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to defuse the situation and find a solution for the Gulf crisis within an Arab framework.

The meeting was attended by Brothers Dr. Sami Musallam, director of Brother President Abu-'Ammar's bureau; Abu-Yahya, director of the PLO's political department; Khattab, Palestinian ambassador to the Libyan Jamahiriyah; the director of the Middle East Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry; and the Soviet ambassador to the Jamahiriyah.

Inter-DFLP Clash Injures Several in Tunis

NC1808114390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1117 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Tunis, 18 Aug (MENA)—It has been learned here that an armed clash occurred between Palestinians loyal to Nayif Hawatimah [leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine—DFLP] and others loyal to Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh. One person was killed, and several others were injured.

According to Palestinian sources, it was possible to end the clash which took place at a PLO office in the (?al-Manzah) district in Tunis last night. Those involved were turned over to the Tunisian authorities, who had surrounded the area of the fighting.

A recent split in the DFLP ranks resulted in an unsuccessful attempt by a group loyal to Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh to assassinate Nayif Hawatimah in the Syrian capital where the DFLP is based.

The Tunisian authorities and PLO officials concerned are currently investigating the incident.

OPEC Affairs

Iran Opposes Saudi Emergency Meeting Request

NC2008101490 Paris AFP in English 0957 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug 20 (AFP)—Iran on Monday said it opposed a Saudi call for an emergency meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), stressing there was no danger of a shortage on world oil markets. Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh

told AFP "the current problem is not a possible shortage of oil but rather the political conditions in the Gulf."

Saudi Arabia and Venezuela have both called for an OPEC meeting to determine whether or not the cartel should boost output to compensate for a shortfall of four million barrels a day, caused by an international embargo on Iraqi and Kuwaiti exports.

"Putting aside national strategic stocks, off-shore reserves around the world have still not been absorbed by the market and there is therefore no risk of a shortage," Mr. Aqazadeh said. He predicted that the Saudi call would not find majority backing among the 13 members of OPEC. Indonesia, Nigeria and Algeria have all said an emergency meeting now would be premature.

Oil analysts said Sunday that Saudi Arabia and Venezuela might boost their production even without formal OPEC approval. Both Iraq and Iran have issued strong warnings against such a move.

Saudi Arabia, Iran To Boost Deliveries

NC2008080890 Paris AFP in English 0717 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Nicosia, Aug 20 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia is expected to supply Kuwait's overseas marketing organization with some 450,000 barrels a day of oil a day, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) disclosed here Monday. [sentence as received] By terms of an agreement under study, Saudi Arabia would provide Kuwait Petroleum International (KPI) with 150,000 barrels of crude a day in September and 300,000 in October, according to the specialist weekly newsletter.

The Saudis have also agreed to meet KPI's naphtha requirements, while the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company wants Saudi authorities to charter some Kuwaiti tankers, all 30 of which are currently outside Kuwait. The MEES report said KPI, currently managed from its London office, was "well-placed to conduct business as usual."

The company has some 15 million barrels of oil in tankers, loaded before Iraq's August 2 invasion and subsequent annexation of Kuwait.

In addition, eight of the 10 members of KPI's executive board are all safe and operating outside Kuwait, according to MEES.

[In another Nicosia-datelined item, Paris AFP in English also reports, "Iran is to boost deliveries of crude oil to Asian markets, notably in Japan, to one million barrels a day in the fourth quarter from 400,000 in the third, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported here Monday.

["Most of the increase will be deducted from Iranian shipments destined for European markets, as Iran's capacity to expand output from its present level of three million barrels a day is limited, MEES said.

["In addition, the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) "has secured substantially improved price terms for its larger crude volumes to Japanese customers—with the formulas up 0.60 dollars a barrel on Iranian Light and 1.40 dollars on Iranian Heavy," according to the specialist weekly newsletter.

["The NIOC, the report said, has secured an average price hike of one dollar a barrel with Japanese refiners to take effect September 1 and to last until the end of the year.

["Iran will boost deliveries to Japan to 760,000 barrels a day in the fourth quarter, up from a planned 230,000 barrels a day in the third quarter.

["MEES said that as a result of the current oil embargo on Iraqi and Kuwaiti exports, Japanese customers stand to lose 370,000 barrels a day."]

Algeria

Bendjedid, Visiting Officials Discuss Iraq

Libyan Envoy

LD1808204990 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] The head of state also received a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, conveyed by Jadallah Azzuz al-Talhi, Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's foreign liaison secretary and special envoy of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. The meeting was attended by Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali. Jadallah Azzuz al-Talhi made a statement after the meeting to the television reporter:

[Begin al-Talhi recording] The situation in the Arab world and the Gulf is very serious and very complex. Regrettably it has been seriously escalated. We believe that this requires Arabs, particularly Arab leaders, to unite their efforts to confront these real threats which, undoubtedly, will not affect one Arab region exclusively. [end recording]

PLO's 'Arafat

LD1908144390 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Oran, 13 August 1990, APS.—Mr. Chadli Bendjedid received today at his residence in Les Andalouses in Oran—situated in the west of the country—Mr. Yasir Arafat, president of the state of Palestine.

The meeting was attended on the algerian side by Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghazali, the foreign minister, and on the Palestinian side by Abu al-Hawl, member of the central committee of the Fatah movement; Abu al-'Iz, ambassador of the state of Palestine to Algiers; and Hakam Bal'awi, member of the central committee of the Fatah movement and ambassador of the state of Palestine to Tunis.

Kuwaiti Prime Minister

LD1808160190 Algiers APS in English 1343 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Oran, 18 August (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid audienced Saturday here Kuwait Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Shaykh al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, special envoy of amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. The audience was attended by the head of government, Mouloud Hamrouche and Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali.

Bendjedid Receives Saudi Envoy

LD1908150590 Algiers APS in Arabic 1438 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Oran, 19 Aug (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid received at his residence in Ras Andalus, near Oran city in the west of the country Shaykh 'Ali Bin Musallam, the advisor of the monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in capacity as the special envoy of the custodian of the two holy mosques. The meeting was attended, by Algerian Foreign Minister Mr. Ahmed Ghazali, and by the ambassador of Saudi Arabia in Algiers.

Sudanese President

LD2008081390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Currently Arab efforts are being made at more than one level to contain the crisis. In Algeria, efforts are concentrated at the highest level. In Oran, President Chadli Bendjedid had political talks with Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir. The president of the Republic of Yemen is expected in Algeria. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Premier Arrives in Algiers 16 Aug

LD1808104890 Algiers APS in English 1017 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Algiers, 18 August (APS)—Kuwait Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Shaykh al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, arrived Thursday to Algiers coming from Rabat.

He declared at his arrival that he was "happy to visit Algeria which has a particular place within the Kuwaitis, thanks to its struggle and its sacrifices for the national liberation and its principles, its constant positions to defend law and justice". [sentence as received]

"I have come to Algeria, he said, to transmit the salutations and thanks of the Amir, the government and the people of Kuwait for the fraternal, courageous and just position of Algeria towards the Iraqi aggression against the state of Kuwait".

The Kuwaiti crown prince added that he would have during his visit to Algeria, talks with Algerian high officials in order to materialize the will of the Arab Islamic nation and the will of the international community "so as to put an end to the occupation of Kuwait by the Iraqi forces, the withdrawal of these forces and the return of the legitimate authority represented by His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and his government".

It is worth recalling that the Kuwaiti crown prince was welcomed at his arrival by the head of government, Mouloud Hamrouche and Foreign Minister, Sid Ahmed Ghozali.

Assembly Official Receives Iraqi, Kuwaiti Envoys

LD1408120690 Algiers APS in English 1012 GMT 14 Aug 90

[Text] Algiers, 14 August (APS)—Chairman of the Foreign and International Cooperation Commission at the

People's National Assembly Dr Djamel Ould Abbes received yesterday the Iraqi and Kuwaiti ambassadors to Algiers, Yasin Alwan Abud Aljebori and Yussef Abdallah al-Amizi.

Talks dealt with the situation in the Arab world in the light of the latest developments in the Gulf and its serious repercussions on the whole region.

FIS Rally Condemns Foreign 'Interference' in Gulf

LD1708214590 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] [Announcer] Thousands of people took part in the march organized by the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) against foreign interference in the Gulf in Algiers today. Among their slogans: "No to the violation of Islamic sovereignty." The following is a report by Djemal Nezzar:

[Nezzar] Thousands of citizens converged on the Martyrs Place; they came there from various mosques in the capital following Friday prayers, responding to a call by the FIS concerning the events taking place in the Gulf. The Islamic Call League also took part in this gathering, was represented by its leader Shaykh Ahmed Sahnoun.

Everyone here came to know the FIS stance on the serious developments in the Gulf region, particularly foreign interference in the Arab land.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] In view of the circumstances facing the Islamic nation and the situation facing the Islamic world, and in view of the contradiction of opinions and stances on this matter, the FIS wishes, through this blessed gathering, to point out, God willing, the correct stance, in accordance with Allah's law, which it has taken. [end recording]

[Nezar] The aim of the gathering was not to condemn one country as against another, as was asserted by an FIS leader. The FIS stance is, however, a condemnation of the U.S. presence in the holy lands. Thus the FIS call and statement, which were read out at the end of the gathering, urged the liberation of the holy shrines, the land of the two holy mosques, from the presence of foreign and U.S. colonialist forces given—the statement went on—the unlawfulnes of seeking the aid and the support of infidels and polytheists. The presence of such foreign forces on the holy places is not to defend its Arab-Islamic sanctity—it is, rather, to defend the interests of the colonialist forces and to destroy the Arab nation's unity.

FIS Urges Muslims To Topple 'Collusive' Regimes

LD1808051490 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] In Algeria the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] called upon its followers to stage protests in various parts of the country. The biggest was the demonstration in Algiers where thousands of people gathered following the Friday prayers to listen to the FIS leader Shaykh Abassi Madani, who called upon Muslims to topple those regimes which are still clinging to colonialist-made borders.

Following the demonstration, our correspondent Abdelhamid Boukraa asked Abassi Madani about his stance regarding the latest development in the Gulf. His response follows:

[Begin Madani recording] What is taking place in the Gulf is a new form of Crusades, in addition to the fact that it is a violation of Islamic sovereignty and an aggression against the sanctity of the two holy mosques, given the flagrant U.S. presence and the Saudi regime's hasty permission for it to be there. This regime has allowed itself to interfere in Allah's will and manage the country as if it owned it. It does not. It is Allah's land, the land of Islam, the land of all Muslims. Therefore, they had no right to open its doors and allow the Americans to bring their colonialist forces into it. Third, the Islamic nation cannot endure such regimes anymore, regimes which are trading in their countries and consecrating the borders, which were drawn by colonialism in order to split them. Therefore, the FIS is calling upon the Islamic nation as a whole to prepare itself as one to abolish such borders and topple such regimes whose collusion with colonialism has become flagrant. [end recording]

Our colleague Abdelhamid Boukraa asked Abassi Madani about his opinion on the dispatch of Arab forces by the side of the U.S. forces to Saudi Arabia. His answer follows:

[Begin Madani recording] Such forces are also lackeys. There is no justification for their presence. And if there is any justification, they should have gone there to confront the U.S. presence, not to consolidate it. They asserted that they were there to defend against any Iraqi invasion, but Iraq did not intend nor did it want to invade Saudi Arabia. As far as what Iraq has done to Kuwait, the problem is a small one. There was no need to allow it to grow to such an extent that it has now become a crusading war between Islam and its enemies. [end recording]

The FIS second in command, Ali Bel Hadj, also addressed the protestors. The main points in his address follow:

[Begin Bel Hadj recording] I advise young people to give up the easy life. The prophet said—may God's prayers, blessings, and benediction be upon him—one must shun the easy life. Allah's creatures should shun the easy life. We are the nation of jihad; we are the nation of Islam. Therefore, we must revive in the nation's spirit the ordinance of the jihad for the cause of Allah and his religion. We must prepare ourselves. Allah said: Against them muster your strength to the utmost of your ability.

Therefore, we should muster our strength, brothers, to fight the aggressors who are spreading evil on earth. The issue here is not merely the issue of the Gulf. The issue here is an issue between Islam and blasphemy. The

struggle is now between Islam and the crusade. It is not a simple struggle over a piece of land. The enemies of Islam, including the rancorous crusaders and the cunning Zionists, whenever they see, brothers, Islamic peoples trying to return to Islam, they carry out such actions aimed at diverting the people's attention from the sound path and their goal. Muslims are, however—thanks be to Allah—ready to go there and protect the holy places—God willing. [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak Holds News Conference 17 Aug

NC1708180090 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1700 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Alexandria, 17 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak reiterated that the Egyptian forces and other Arab forces in Saudi Arabia are working under and receiving orders from the Saudi command. He said that it is the Arabs' duty to protect the sacred Islamic places in Saudi Arabia. President Mubarak said that the Egyptian troops, which do not number more than 2,000 men, have been sent by the authority of the Arab League and in accordance with the resolution passed by the emergency Arab summit recently held in Cairo.

Speaking at an international news conference in Alexandria this afternoon, President Mubarak said that the decision to dispatch Arab troops to Saudi Arabia was made at the request of that country and that this request was granted after a decision by the Arab summit. President Mubarak noted that Saudi Arabia is an Arab country with the right to defend itself.

As for the media campaign Iraq is waging against Egypt and its leadership, as well as against Saudi Arabia, President Husni Mubarak said that it is silly and whoever engages in such a campaign is living in another age. President Mubarak said he broached that subject more than once with the kings and presidents. President Mubarak said: We should act as civilized countries. We should not get hostile whenever we have differences. Mubarak said that Egypt will not respond to the abuse.

President Mubarak said he was slandered but he will not respond because of the stature and civilization of Egypt. Mubarak said that he did not use abusive words or insults like those used in the official Iraqi statement. President Mubarak said that he will not respond to insults, regardless of how bad that abuse may be.

President Husni Mubarak once again appealed to Iraqi officials to respond to the voice of peace and avoid further confrontations and bloodshed which may result from that bad situation.

The president said: I have tried my best through direct contacts and through several mediators to work out a solution to the problem. However, I could not find one. He asserted however that there is still time [for a peaceful solution].

President Mubarak said that Egypt has made great efforts to resolve the crisis and that he, personally, has made every possible effort to find a way out, without success. In this respect he stressed that he has absolutely nothing against Iraq. He noted that when he called for an emergency Arab summit, his goal was to find a way out under the Arab umbrella. However, he said, some thought the summit was against Iraq. He added that the summit was in Iraq's interest and that he tried to explain this to the Iraqis, who refused to understand it.

President Mubarak asserted that no kind of occupation can be acceptable in the present age under any circumstances.

Mubarak added that he is optimistic by nature and that efforts are being exerted to find a solution and protect the region against falling into a bottomless pit.

The president was asked if Kuwait would return as an Arab sovereign state. He said he hopes so from the bottom of his heart, adding: Kuwait is a friendly and Muslim Arab state.

The president was asked, as a military man, if he believed that the American forces can put an end to current events in the region. The president said: I cannot predict this.

To a question on the effects of the Gulf crisis on Egyptian and Arab national security, he said: What is happening concerns the whole region as well as the entire world. Therefore, the entire world is trying to find a peaceful solution.

Responding to a question about Iraq's approval of the agreement it signed with Iran in Algiers in 1975, Iraq's movement of its forces to the Kuwaiti-Saudi borders, and whether this means there is no hope any longer for a peaceful solution to the crisis, President Mubarak said that the Iraqi initiative regarding Iran was made very quickly and I wholeheartedly wish it had not been made so quickly. I say this frankly. The initiative was made after an eight-year war and the situation returned to what it was before the war with Iran.

He said that we must not wait for several years [for the same thing to happen] in Kuwait but we must respond to the Arab call and to the call of right and peace. Iraq should respond by withdrawing its forces and thus avoid fighting, bloodshed, destruction of resources, and displacement of people that will be the consequences of the present stand. I wish for this and I do not want to comment any further because very many comments are published in our newspapers and broadcast on the radio and they do not need further explanation from me.

Asked if a swift military action is the best solution, President Mubarak said at his news conference: We do

not want to talk about a military measure and we must concentrate on a peaceful direction because this will spare us many problems.

Replying to yet another question about his meeting with the "troika" delegation and whether there is anything new, President Mubarak said: We discussed the current situation in the region. Regrettably, the Kuwaiti issue overshadowed the Palestinian issue—which is not being mentioned now. This is regrettable. The European Community is trying its own methods to achieve a solution. However, they all agree with me that we must do what we can to avoid military confrontation.

Asked to comment on the current position of Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO regarding the Gulf crisis, the president replied: No comment.

Speaking about the message he had received from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Mubarak said: When I invited him to an Arab summit, President al-Qadhdhafi told me that the summit should be held to find a peaceful solution because we do not want war. This is literally what Colonel al-Qadhdhafi told me.

The president added: I received al-Qadhdhafi's message and I was taking that direction. Al-Qadhdhafi wanted all the troops to be sent under UN auspices, and I myself believe that the UN umbrella was safer. He [al-Qadhdhafi] is trying to find a solution and he is making contacts. We welcome any effort to find a peaceful solution.

Touching on the status of Egyptian, U.S., and British nationals who are still held in Kuwait and Iraq, the president said: From the humanitarian point of view, I hope that no harm will come to these nationals. I listened to a statement on the Iraqi radio yesterday. He stressed that mistreating these nationals would be an uncivilized act under all circumstances. Mubarak said these nationals had been providing assistance to these countries in the various fields to help them flourish. The president asserted that it would be a disgrace to kill any of these nationals. He expressed the hope that a peaceful solution will be reached in this connection.

On his comment on U.S. President Bush' view of what is happening in al-'Aqabah Gulf, the president said that he supports UN resolutions in that connection, adding that these resolutions are bound to help us avoid further confrontations.

The president was asked to comment on Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's remarks on the credibility of President Mubarak's statements and on whether current events in the Gulf region would drag the world into war. The president said: As for President Saddam Husayn's statement which was broadcast yesterday, I do not wish to comment on it. As a president of a state, he added, I can differ with others. However, I am not prepared to speak improper words in response to the Iraqi president's insults. We represent a dignified state, he said, adding: If he [Saddam] said that we Arabs lie, I will not comment on this. I will leave the matter to the judgment of world public opinion.

To a question on Egyptians returning from Kuwait and safeguarding their salaries, the president said the Egyptian authorities are making their utmost to return Egyptian nationals to their homeland because they are Egyptian citizens. Our basic task is to protect our citizens wherever they may be. We are taking action to protect the Egyptian citizen wherever he may be.

'Abd-al-Majid Discusses Gulf Situation

17 Aug News Conference

NC1708214090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Alexandria, 17 Aug (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that Egypt's position on the crisis between Kuwait and Iraq has been totally clear and there was no ambiguity from the very beginning.

'Abd-al-Majid said that the Egyptian position is in line with those taken by the majority of Arab and Islamic countries and the entire world, as well as in line with the resolutions of the Arab League council, of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization, of the United Nations, and of the emergency Arab summit in Cairo.

In remarks at the joint news conference at al-Nuzhah airport with the European troika delegation, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that our position now is quite clear. We support the UN Security Council resolution on this issue and insist on Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and on the return of the legitimacy to Kuwait.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that we would have liked to see a peaceful solution to the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait. President Husni Mubarak has made a great effort to find a peaceful solution to this conflict, but the Iraqi invasion came as a shock to President Mubarak and the Egyptian people.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egypt and the troika delegation hold identical views on that issue. He added: We will continue to cooperate with Europe, for I believe peace and stability in the Mediterranean and Europe are closely linked to peace and stability in our part of the world.

Dr. 'Abd al-Majid hoped that a peaceful solution will be found for the conflict, that military confrontation will be averted, and that Iraq's aggression against Kuwait will end.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that if there is a single chance, a one percent chance, for a peaceful solution to the crisis, we will not let it go. We pray to God that this crisis may end peacefully, if possible.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that making peace is harder than making war and requires courage, wisdom, and valor. The results of peace are much better than the results of war. We have seen what happened in Iraq's war with Iran. Iraq has conceded to all the Iranian demands, so what was the reason for the war, then? 'Abd-al-Majid asked.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid described the Gulf crisis as "a severe and grave crisis." He added that the EC believes it is possible to attempt to resolve it peacefully, so let us do that.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid described the statements by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the effect that the United Nations should assume its responsibilities toward the crisis in the Gulf as "positive statements." Abd-al-Majid said that it is a correct attitude that we should be speaking in the framework of international legitimacy.

Asked about the statements in which King Husayn of Jordan said that he will carry out the UN Security Council Resolution 661, concerning sanctions against Iraq, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that if this is the Jordanian position, then there will be no problem concerning the port of al-'Aqabah.

Asked about Egypt's position regarding what the Europeans believe is the hostage-like treatment of the foreigners in Iraq and Kuwait, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: We do not accept this treatment. We believe that the foreigners should be allowed to leave Kuwait and Iraq, in deference to human rights. He added that Egypt is a state that firmly believes in human rights and he hopes the Iraqis will not use the Egyptians or the citizens of any other country for that purpose [of hostages].

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Egypt is a free and democratic country and that it hates aggression. For our entire history, he said, we have always opposed aggression, more so if aggression is by an Arab country against another. This will always be Egypt's position until the Iraqi forces withdraw from Kuwait and the legitimate government is restored there.

Meanwhile, the Irish foreign minister, who spoke at the same news conference, said that the EC countries are very concerned about the safety of the Europeans in Kuwait and Iraq. He added that the Egyptians are equally concerned, for there are 180,000 Egyptians in Iraq and Kuwait.

Asked about the EC position in case of military interception of ships in the Gulf, Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelies said: We will discuss this matter in our upcoming meeting in Paris on Tuesday. He added that so far the EC has not established any official position and that only the countries that will send naval ships or other military forces to the region are expected to state an official position.

19 Aug Statement

NC1908195590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 AUG (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has emphasized that Egypt's decision to dispatch some military units to Saudi Arabia was made in response to a request from the Saudi brothers. The decision, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added, was also made in implementation of Egypt's commitments under the resolution adopted by the emergency Arab summit in Cairo on 10 August. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said these units are operating under the Saudi command and in coordination with the other Arab forces that were sent to Saudi Arabia.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed the following facts:

1. The Egyptian forces were not sent to Saudi Arabia to enter into an armed confrontation with the Iraqi forces massed along the Saudi-Kuwaiti borders;

2. The task of these forces is to deter any foreign aggression against Saudi Arabia;

3. The Egyptian forces will not have any relationship with the foreign troops present there at the request of the Saudi authorities; and

4. The Egyptian forces will withdraw immediately when asked to do so by the Saudi authorities.

This came in a statement delivered by the deputy prime minister and foreign minister before a joint meeting of the People's Assembly's Arab Affairs, Foreign Relations, and National Security Committees today. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid's statement was read on his behalf by Nihad 'Asqalani, assistant to the foreign minister.

In his statement, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister reiterated Egypt's principled stand and its firm and courageous support for Kuwait against the Iraqi invasion. He added that since the first day of the Iraqi invasion, Egypt has called for the unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of the Kuwaiti legitimate regime chosen by the Kuwaiti people's free will. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid went on to say that Egypt's stand is based on a clear-cut concept that understands the requirements of Arab solidarity and Arab national security. The Egyptian concept is based on the following basic principles:

1. Renunciation of any resort to force to patch up Arab differences,

2. Nonintervention in the domestic affairs of Arab countries and abstention from carrying out acts that might harm the Arab countries' security and stability,

3. Respect for Arab countries' sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity,

4. The settlement of Arab differences should be made within the Arab framework and in accordance with the provisions and charters that govern and organize joint Arab action, and

5. There should be no contradiction between international legitimacy and Arab legitimacy.

In his statement Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid defined the basic elements in the Egyptian stand on the current crisis in the Gulf as follows:

1. The Iraqi forces must withdraw from Kuwait and the legitimate regime must be restored in accordance with the free will of the fraternal Kuwaiti people, which has been expressed by the Kuwaiti communities in several states following the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

2. Iraq's decision to annex Kuwait will not be recognized and it is considered null and void.

3. Commitment to international legitimacy and abidance by Arab legitimacy and efforts to avert a contradiction between them will continue.

4. The call to find a peaceful solution within an Arab framework will continue.

5. The disagreement between Egypt and Iraq over the invasion of Kuwait does not mean that we are in a confrontation with Iraq. We sought to confine the disagreement to its natural framework and we hope that the Iraqi brothers will respond to this Egyptian inclination to serve the interests of the Iraqi and Egyptian people as well as sublime national interests.

6. Efforts will be made to maintain the minimum limit of Arab solidarity and ceaseless work will continue to contain the current Arab differences the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait created.

7. There will be no confusion between Egypt's national duty toward the Palestinian people and the present actions and statements made by some Palestinian leaders.

8. Interest will continue in following up on the condition of the Egyptian community in Kuwait and Iraq and providing all possible aid and facilities to it.

9. The Egyptian military cooperation with Saudi Arabia is in response to a request by the Saudi Government. The task of the Egyptian forces is one of deterrence and they have no intention of launching an attack against anybody.

The Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that the Foreign Ministry has adopted measures to deal with the adverse effects of the Iraqi invasion on the Egyptian community in Kuwait and to reassure their relatives in Egypt about their safety. He said that these measures are:

1. An operations room has been set up to work 24 hours a day to receive the inquiries from citizens about their relatives in Kuwait. Thousands of cables have been exchanged with the embassy and the consulate in Kuwait.

2. Consular missions have been sent to Hafr al-Batin in Saudi Arabia and to the crossing points in al-Ruwayshid and Dura al-Masri in Jordan to provide consular services and care for the repatriates.

3. Follow-up committees have been formed at the ministry. They will be in constant session to follow up on the effects of the Iraqi invasion in the various political, economic, and social fields.

The foreign minister said that President Husni Mubarak, who is well-known for his eagerness to protect the interests of every Egyptian citizen at home and abroad, has ordered the dispatch of military aircraft to Saudi Arabia to transport the Egyptian citizens returning from Kuwait.

Ministry Issues Statement on Dispatch of Troops

NC1908141990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Aug (MENA)—The Egyptian Armed Forces today continued to transfer the units and contingents assigned to be stationed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in accordance with the recommendations of the Arab summit recently held in Cairo. They will share with the sisterly Arab and Islamic troops the tasks of defending the holy territories under an Arab umbrella and under the Saudi command. The Egyptian Air Force continues to transfer and provide air cover for these troops.

In a statement issued today, the Egyptian Defense Ministry announced that the groups that had left in the past few days have taken up their defensive positions, adding that the troops' combat efficiency and morale are high and that they are fully capable of performing their tasks.

The Defense Ministry statement said General Yusuf Sabri Abu- Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, supervised the transfer of these troops and personally saw them off, due to his eagerness to reassure himself about the needs and preparedness of these troops. Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, and senior commanders and officers accompanied the defense minister in bidding farewell to the departing troops.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Protests Blockade to UN Leader

LD1808100190 Tripoli JANA in English 0809 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Tripoli, Hanibal [August] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution yesterday sent the following message to the secretary general of the United Nations Javier Perez de Cuellar:

Further to our letter to you regarding the convening of the Security Council and for the United Nations solely, and not others, to take charge of the problem of the Gulf, we say that the orders issued by the American President to intercept and search vessels in the Gulf and neighbouring areas are illegal and an express violations of the United Nations Charter and no country has the right to act unilaterally in a situation like this.

The orders should be issued by the Security Council and not the American National Security Council.

The continuation of these acts may lead to a catastrophe for world peace.

Kuwaiti Premier Arrives in Tripoli 19 Aug

LD1908175890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1725 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Aug (SPA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti crown prince and prime minister, arrived in Tripoli today from Tunisia for a visit to Libya in the context of his current tour.

During his visit, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah will have talks with Libyan President [as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi concerning the implementation of Arab, Islamic, and international decisions condemning the aggresion against Kuwait, the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait, and the return of legitimate authority.

Morocco

Ministry Denies Maghreb Gulf Plan Exists

LD1708133690 Rabat MAP in English
1250 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Rabat, Aug 17 (MAP)—A senior official from the Moroccan Foreign Ministry categorically denied Thursday the existence of a Maghreban plan for the settlement of the Gulf crisis, as reported by 'Radio France Internationale' (RFI) earlier in the day.

RFI had reported that King Hassan II would 'propose Monday a Maghreban plan for the settlement of the Gulf conflict providing for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, the establishment of privileged relations between Iraq and Kuwait and the signing of a treaty between Baghdad and the Emirate that will be guaranteed by the Arab League and the United Nations'.

According to RFI, the sovereign would have had contacts with his peers at the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA).

The Moroccan official told MAP that 'There is absolutely no Maghreban plan' on the matter.

Relatedly AFP reported, quoting Tunisian authorized sources, that 'Tunisia knew nothing about the existence of a Maghreban plan for resolving the Gulf crisis'.

Libya's Al-Talhi Brings Al-Qadhdhafi Message

Arrives 18 Aug

LD1808163890 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison in the Libyan Jamahiriyah, Mr. Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi arrived this afternoon in Morocco carrying a message from President [as heard] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to King Hassan II. [passage omitted]

Meets Hassan

LD1808214690 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic
2030 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Mr. Jadallah Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, arrived in Morocco this afternoon. He was received in the royal palace of Skhirat by King Hassan II.

The Libyan envoy, who was accompanied by the Libyan secretary in Rabat, Mr. Qasim al-Zuwwi, has conveyed a verbal message to the king from the Libyan president [as heard] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. [passage omitted]

The Libyan envoy left our country this afternoon. At Rabat-Sale airport, he made the following statement to journalists:

[Begin al-Talhi recording] I had the honor this afternoon of being received by his majesty the king, to whom I conveyed the message entrusted to me. As I have already explained, the message concerns the grave situation in the Arab region, and it comes in the context of the continuous consultation between his majesty King Hassan II and his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great al-Fatih revolution.

The king charged me with a message as a reply to what I had conveyed to him from the brother leader. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Saddam Sets Conditions for Foreigners' 'Release'

JN1908163590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1502 GMT 19 Aug 90

["Open letter" from President Saddam Husayn to the families of foreigners in Iraq; dated 19 August—read by announcer]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, dear children: I know that you are pained because your relatives are not allowed to leave Iraq. I am just as pained as you are. I am fully convinced that the speaker and members of the Iraqi National Assembly are also pained just as are all the Iraqis and Arabs. This is because I know that the Iraqi National Assembly members are believers in God and in human rights, having fought many years to reach their present status for which they thank God. They know as well as I that their country taught humanity the first letter and thus taught them how to write and that their country taught the human race the first law to be developed on earth—the code of Hammurabi which set out human rights and obligations 4,500 years ago. They, therefore, know that there is no value to happiness in their country if the entire human race does not understand that any restriction of the freedom of any human being curtails the liberty of man in one of its aspects. They know that they care for human beings regardless of their nationality, color, or race, since they love God and God does not differentiate among his slaves except on the basis of the extent of their faith and its requirements.

Accordingly, the National Assembly members are just as pained as you are and all of us are sorry for what happened, which was not of our own making, but was the outcome of the will of certain people who acted arbitrarily and deviated from the will and teachings of God. The parties basically directly responsible for this are the U.S. Administration and the British Government. How so? You know, ladies and gentlemen, that Iraq emerged from a war with Iran that lasted eight years and you know that this eight-year war was fought between two oil producers and in the environment of the Gulf oil and that in this war it happened that the Iraqi armies crossed into Iran and that the Iranian armies crossed into Iraq. Why did the United States, Britain, and others not interfere to end it, and why did they not threaten those who did not abide by the resolutions issued by the Security Council at that time?

They did not do that because they had contributed to its eruption and because they and their backward allies like the Croesus of Kuwait and his supporters had wanted it to continue and not to stop until God wanted it to stop. When it stopped, they gave their agents in the region, foremost the Croesus of Kuwait and his clique, power over us to fight the Iraqi people in their livelihood and to deprive them, through economic war and aggression against our oil fields, of their simplest rights, although they are the people of civilizations and glories, until they reduced the value of the Iraqi dinar to one-twentieth of the Kuwaiti dinar; that is, 54 fils of a Kuwaiti dinar. The value of the Iraqi dinar was higher than the value of the Kuwaiti dinar in 1980, and now it has become difficult for us to provide milk for our children, although our country, the country of the two rivers, is a country of wealth and riches.

Gentlemen, you may not know that this country whose rulers concocted plots was part of Iraq until 1913 and that Iraq had not recognized it until the sixties in this century; that the Iraqi prime minister issued a decision in 1961 annexing Kuwait to Iraq, turning it once again into a district linked to al-Basrah and appointing its shaykh as governor as was the case until World War I broke out; that the Consultative Council in Kuwait decided twice in the thirties to unite with Iraq, a decision that was abrogated by the ruling family at that time; and that Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Sa'id proposed unity with Kuwait to the Baghdad Pact in 1958 in the presence of the U.S. representative.

Why do the U.S. President and the British prime minister want to starve the Iraqi people to death? Cursed be what they are doing. What have the Iraqi people done other than unifying themselves and the families that were divided by circumstances in Iraq and Kuwait, defending themselves and helping to topple the backward Kuwaiti shaykh, whose only concern was collecting money and women. Why are they imposing a siege on Iraq to kill the babies and elderly as well as those who cannot get food and medicine, never mind that what the U.S. and British administrations want may not be achieved? Why are they massing naval fleets, squadrons of planes, and ground forces with which they want to attack Iraq? They said they had come here and thus insulted the land of the Arabs and the sanctities of the Muslims by occupying the land of Hejaz and Najd [Saudi Arabia] in order to defend Saudi Arabia against the Iraqi danger. They are lying because they know that Iraq does not commit aggression but retaliates when it is attacked. Those who have not decided to deal a blow to Iraq can rest assured.

Ladies and gentlemen, O beloved children of God, O dear and beloved children in Europe and the United States. As it is clear to you, our homeland is being threatened by the United States and Britain and those frustrated and humiliated ones involved with them. Our people are being exposed to a great harm. If the accursed ones mount an aggression, many heads of rulers will fall from their shoulders and tens of thousands of women, men, and children will perish from both sides. The National Assembly in our country knows this, and in accordance with its constitutional and humanitarian duties, it is searching for a way to prevent the disaster.

Among other things, it has reached the conclusion, together with other officials, that preventing the foreigners from traveling [safar] outside Iraq—particularly those whose governments have a hostile position and are taking part in the preparations for aggression and the economic embargo against Iraq—will constitute a means to open a deep dialogue with the peoples of those countries and those who represent them and with the

administrations of those countries, to find a peaceful solution and avert the imminent catastrophe against the region and maybe the whole world that war would entail if it broke out.

At any rate, their presence with the Iraqi families working in the vital targets [ahdaf] may prevent military aggression.

Therefore, the National Assembly in Iraq, as well as we and the entire people of Iraq, are pained over what has happened. However, we understand the decision mentioned above because we know the reasons behind it and its objectives. This is because those who made that decision believe that man may have to, under special circumstances, deter major harm with lesser harm. They also believe that man is equal to his brother man in humanitarian value, regardless of his color, race, or nationality. Therefore, deterring the harm of death, murder, and starving to death resulting from the U.S. policy which is directed against the people of Iraq, by banning a number of citizens from traveling, is a gain to humanity as a whole.

I add, ladies and gentlemen, that many of our children and yours will become orphans if war breaks out. Many of our women and yours will become widows if war breaks out. And, many of our men and yours will die if war breaks out. At any rate, many of the Iraqis, who are equal in human value to others, will starve and some of them, particularly children and old people, will die if the economic embargo, which the U.S. Administration wants, is imposed according to its whim.

Therefore, and if any individual has to face such a scenario—which is realistic and tangible, and the worst of it can happen at any minute—he will accept the consequences that will affect us all as a result of the foreigners involved not being able to travel for some time until the clouds disappear. To deprive an individual from seeing his homeland for some time is better for him and for humanity as a whole than depriving thousands of people of life.

You know that all the Americans and the others who belong to other nationalities in the armed forces were brought to the region and are massing to execute aggressive acts, not because they want this or because they are convinced about war and came here from their homelands and families by themselves, but because their governments have wanted this.

Therefore, let us all cooperate against those governments and stop them from committing their widespread crime and force them to withdraw their troops from the region, the presence of which may cause an intentional or unintentional spark that will set a huge fire or bring about the deluge from which no one can escape. To give everybody the opportunity to achieve peace, to disclose and expose those who want war and destruction, and to secure freedom for all, we put forward the following initiative:

1. The Security Council, with the approval of the United States, shall pledge that the United States will withdraw its forces from the region in accordance with a timetable not to exceed the time that these forces have been in the region. In addition, the Security Council shall pledge to Saudi Arabia that it will, collectively with the countries that abide by its resolution, stand against Iraq if it tries to attack Saudi Arabia. At the same time, both Iraq and Saudi Arabia shall pledge that neither of them will commit an act of aggression against the other or harm the interests of the other.

2. Alternatively, the Security Council shall pledge to secure peace and security in the entire region in accordance with the general basis contained in our initiative and the foreign forces shall withdraw from the sacred lands of Hijaz and Najd [Saudi Arabia]. This alternative, as we see it, is the option to achieve full and comprehensive peace and bring definite stability to the region and the world.

3. If either paragraph one or two above is accomplished, the foreigners shall be allowed to travel immediately as they choose.

4. If the above is not to be fulfilled on any excuse, then we will be content with the President of the United States making a clear, unequivocal commitment, in writing, to withdraw his forces and those of his allies from the land of the Arabs and the sanctities of the Muslims in accordance with a declared timetable not to exceed the time it took for the buildup, that he pledge not to use force against Iraq, that he declare his respect for international law and refrain from violating it, that he break the blockade on Iraq by all sides immediately, and that he deal with Iraq on the basis of mutual respect and reciprocal refrain from harming the interests of either party.

For our part, and if the terms mentioned above are carried out, we will use our constitutional powers to allow the foreigners concerned to travel outside Iraq, each in accordance with his choice and decision.

5. The issue of Kuwait will be dealt with by the Arabs as an Arab issue, just as happened in all the other similar issues, such as the issue of the Sahara in the Arab Maghreb region between Morocco and the other parties concerned and the issue of Syria's occupation of Lebanon as well as other similar issues.

Brothers, sisters, and dear children: This is our initiative. I ask you: Is there anything in it that contradicts international law, is against humanity, or is contrary to the West's legitimate interests? If the answer is that the initiative is fair, then let us all cooperate to realize it. With this, peace, freedom, and tranquil life can be achieved for all.

Will the deaf ones hear? This is a question directed to the U.S. Administration in particular. With the correct answer to this question, many things can be achieved to serve humanity.

God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, on 19 August 1990.

Austrians, Swedish, Swiss Allowed To Leave

JN1908162190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1552 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Aug (INA)—In response to the humanitarian contents included in leader President Saddam Husayn's message addressed to the families of foreigners in Iraq and through them to the peoples of Europe and America, National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih made a statement to INA, which says:

As a gesture of good intention, the National Assembly has decided to allow a number of the nationals of Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, and Portugal to travel outside Iraq because their states have not dispatched forces or weapons to the region. The travel of other nationals from these states will be examined in light of their positions toward not preventing exports of foodstuffs, medicine, and other material to Iraq.

Iraqis Bar U.S. Officials, Nationals Meeting

JN1708124590 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1030 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Iraqi soldiers today prevented U.S. officials from visiting U.S. nationals held at the al-Rashid Hotel in Baghdad without giving any clarifications regarding this measure. An official at the U.S. State Department said that Washington is trying to contact Baghdad to protest this measure. It is worth noting here that Iraqi forces moved 35 U.S. nationals from Kuwait to Iraq soon after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Foreigners Instructed To Assemble in Hotels

JN1908070390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0648 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. An authorized Interior Ministry spokesman has stated the following: In order to ensure the safety of Western and Australian foreigners in the Iraqi cities: Kuwait, al-Nida' [al-Ahmadi], and al-Jahra' and the areas within their administrative borders, these foreigners should assemble in the following hotels: Hyatt Regency, the Meridien, and [Kuwait] International, formerly Hilton. Anyone who does not comply will, together with his government, bear full responsibility for any undesirable action that might be targetted against them by hostile elements.

Foreign Diplomats in Kuwait To Lose Immunity

JN2008104790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1026 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 August (INA)—Iraq has urged the countries which have diplomatic missions in Kuwait to speed up the process of ending their duties and to close down their headquarters no later than this Friday [24 August].

A Foreign Ministry spokesman today warned that the diplomats who do not abide by this decision will, as of Saturday 25 August, be treated as ordinary foreign nationals.

On 19 August Iraq informed the accredited diplomatic missions of Arab and foreign countries in Baghdad of the decision to close down their missions in Kuwait. In a memorandum on this subject, the Foreign Ministry asked that the activities of the headquarters of these missions in Kuwait be liquidated and transferred to Baghdad at a date no later than 24 August.

French in Baghdad May Be Moved to Al-Basrah

LD2008085690 Paris Domestic Service in French 0800 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] The Iraqi oil port of al-Basrah could be the reception site for the 27 French people who until now were living in a hotel in Baghdad and of whom there has been no news, a wife of one of the French citizens reports. She was able to telephone her husband. He told her the Iraqi authorities are preparing to transfer the small group of French people to al-Basrah. He seemed very distressed and despairing, she said. There is some good news, however: according to this Frenchman, this small group is being treated well by the Iraqis.

Government Allows Some Foreigners To Travel

Indonesians

JN2008065190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0620 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. An authoritative official source has stated the following:

We salute Indonesia's decision not to respond to the charlatan Fahd and not to submit to U.S. pressures by announcing that it will not send troops to Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

The National Assembly speaker has given orders that Indonesian nationals be given further facilities and that further appreciation should be given them and their government for this free Islamic decision.

The National Assembly speaker also issued orders that all appropriate facilities be given to all Indonesian citizens to travel whenever and wherever they want according to their choice.

29 Muharram 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 20 August 1990.

Some Argentines

JN2008065990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0642 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] A National Assembly spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate; We appreciate the statement issued by Argentina on not sending its troops to the region.

As a gesture of goodwill, it has been decided to facilitate the travel of a number of its citizens outside of Iraq according to their choice.

We will look into the travel of others in light of the developments in Argentina's future stand.

29 Muharram 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 20 August 1990.

Ministry Warns Boycott Will Hurt Foreigners Too

JN1808155590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Statement by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs on "the subject of foreign families that Iraqis have decided to host"; date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In light of the decision of the Iraqi people's representatives announced yesterday by the speaker of the National Assembly, which stated that Iraqis are a peaceful people who reject war and anyone who espouses war, and given that the Iraqis have not committed aggression on the West or its legitimate interests, and given that certain Western nations have unjustifiably antagonized the Iraqi people at the instigation of the United States, and that the United States and its supporters are edging toward war with Iraq, in addition to its occupation of Arab land and Islamic sacred places in Hejaz and Najd [Saudi Arabia], and since the presence of Westerners in Iraq might be one of the means that could bring about peace and preclude aggression and war so as to make the U.S. President and those who have allied themselves with him reconsider their aggressive policies, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs announces the following:

First, the United States and its allies have overstepped the bounds of the economic boycott, which essentially means a suspension of trade only. They are now mounting an economic blockade with the force of arms against Iraq including even food and medicine which counts as an act of war according to international norms and law. These measures have led and will lead to a scarcity of imported foodstuffs including children's milk. And since the children of the world—whatever their nationality—are the favorites of God and the leader Saddam Husayn, and in keeping with our humanitarian principles, we have decided to give equal attention to the needs of the children of the foreign families as to those of the children of Iraq. If the boycott leads to shortages in children's milk, medicine, and other goods, the resultant scarcities affecting the Iraqi children in terms of food, medicine, clothing, and otherwise, will equally affect the foreign children.

Second, in view of the circumstances of the economic boycott and blockade, which the United States and its allies have unilaterally imposed through pressures and armed force on Iraq, food cannot be provided to all adults in the way we would want. Some people in Europe, particularly the British people, have had this experience or one similar to it. Therefore, they appreciate the circumstances and arrangements. Consequently, the nature of things dictates that preference in terms of quality and quantity of food will be given to the Armed Forces first because they are the shield of the homeland and the people against aggression, and to workers in factories, plants, and departments involved in war efforts. The others will be given a different level of attention.

Since the concerned foreigners will not be among those working in the Armed Forces, or the activities connected to them, their share of food in terms of quality and quantity with other Iraqis will be affected one way or another by our foreign imports of foodstuffs.

Third, based on what has been mentioned in the second item above, and in order to provide the necessary quality and quantity of food for foreigners and Iraqis, the soundest solution would be to end the boycott, which the United States has imposed on Iraq, and the economic blockade, which Bush and his allies are trying to impose unilaterally by armed force against Iraq. As a swift and advanced measure, the solution would be not to embargo anything that is related to food, medicine, and the goods and products of humanitarian nature.

We ask the families of the foreigners present in Iraq and all those who show solidarity with them, as well as the humanitarian societies in the West and the world, to raise their voices in order to achieve these noble humanitarian goals. May God render success to those who call for peace and amity and who reject war and animosity.

U.S. Fires on Oil Tankers; Oil Minister Reacts

JN1808192290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 August (INA)—A number of Iraqi oil tankers operating in the Arabian Gulf region and the Gulf of Oman today were subjected to numerous provocative attempts by gunboats belonging to the U.S. fleet and carrying missiles and varied weapons.

Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Jalabi told this to INA. He said that the U.S. fleet proceeded to provocatively harass the Iraqi tanker, Khanaqin, in the Gulf of Oman, and the Iraqi tanker Baba Karkar in the Arabian Gulf to prevent their movement.

After the two tankers insisted on proceeding along the course set for them in accordance with international maritime law and norms and after they refused to be inspected by U.S. forces, the U.S. gunboats fired several shots that fell in front of, behind, and near the two tankers, in a desperate attempt to force them to stop and change course. However, the two tankers continued to move along the course set for them, defying the U.S. fleet, which was violating international law and arrogating powers.

The Oil Ministry of the Republic of Iraq has warned that any attack on its tankers and crews will produce grave results for which the U.S. authorities will be responsible. It also urged the international community and competent maritime organizations to denounce these provocations. Concluding his remarks, the oil minister hailed the crew of the Iraqi tanker Khanaqin and its captain, Sami Ahmad 'Abdallah, and the crew of the Iraqi tanker Baba Karkar and its captain, Tahir Jum'ah Muhammad, who proved by their courage that they are the soldiers of the victorious leader, Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him. The minister also declared that the rest of the Iraqi tankers and their crews will follow suit in their courage and march forward.

'Aziz Appeals to UN on Harassment of Tankers

JN1908073690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Aug (INA)—Iraq has warned of the consequences of the acts of piracy and armed aggression at sea being perpetrated by the United States and their allies and their oppressive troops against Iraq.

In a message sent by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraq held [the United States] and its allies fully responsible for their hostile actions. The following is the text of the message:

Your Excellency;

I would like to inform you that a U.S. gunboat [zawraq] harassed the Iraqi tanker "Khanaqin" at 2000 on 17 August 1990 and asked it to halt—something which forced the tanker to enter Iranian territorial waters in the Gulf of Oman.

At 1430 on 18 August 1990, the U.S. gunboat continued to harass the tanker and asked its crewmen to inform it of the tanker's course. The crew informed the gunboat that the tanker was heading for Aden for refueling. At 1505 GMT, two U.S. gunboats directed their guns at the tanker and requested to come aboard to search it or that the tanker change course and return to where it came from. The two gunboats let down some boats to prepare for boarding the tanker. At 1715 GMT, nine rounds were fired at the front, back, and sides of the tanker.

The U.S. Armed Forces today intercepted the Iraqi tanker Baba Karkar and fired at it while it was sailing off the Bahraini coast.

These facts unequivocally show that the United States has allowed itself to perpetrate acts of piracy and armed aggression against Iraq at sea. The Iraqi Government warns of the consequences of these hostile acts and holds the United States and its allies as well as their oppressive troops fully responsible for these hostile acts.

The Iraqi Government urges the international community to strongly protest these acts of piracy and aggression and to take measures to prevent the United States from acting as a policeman in international waters.

Please accept my best regards.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq, Baghdad, 18 August 1990, corresponding to 27 Muharram 1411 Hegira

Paper Says U.S. Naval Blockade To Fail

JN1908082890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says that all of Bush's fleets, aircraft, and troops, as well as the troops made available to him by Zionism, will not be able to work in and interact with the Arabian Peninsula lands, whose sands will swallow them up and whose sun will scorch them. Their hostile objectives will be thwarted, God willing, thanks to the Iraqis' strength and steadfastness and the wisdom of their great leader Saddam Husayn, the paper adds.

The paper, which is issued by the Ministry of Defense, affirms that the empty show of force will not frighten militant peoples and that our proud people in Iraq, and their depth—all Arab and Islamic peoples—will not be frightened. They will not be brought to their knees. Their military and moral power will enable them to face the aggression, the paper adds.

AL-QADISIYAH condemns U.S. President George Bush's decision to impose an economic blockade on Iraq against the will of the international community. The paper adds: There can be no meaner policy than the inhumane policy President Bush has chosen to pursue. President Bush has begun to pursue this policy after he did some calculations and found that the sabre-rattling of his weapons and the massing of his fleets and aircraft will not stop the Iraqis from persisting in their holy defense of their sovereignty, dignity, and territorial integrity. Thus, Bush has trampled on all the values which he pretended to cherish all along—the values with which he traded. The reference here is to the alleged defense of human rights, freedom, and peace. Consequently, he ordered his troops to impose an economic blockade on Iraq, thus defying the UN Security Council resolution which did not provide for such inhuman conduct against Iraq. Besides, Bush threatened world

states and brought pressure to bear on them to force them to refrain from dealing with Iraq. Furthermore, his naval forces intercepted some Iraqi ships in international waters.

The paper says: These stupid moves by Bush are indicative of the savage, hostile, and rancorous spirit that Bush harbors toward Iraq and the Arabs. Otherwise, how would one explain the fact that a country, which expressed a desire for peace and showed a readiness to commit itself to international resolutions and treaties, is being denied access to food and medicine? How would one explain the fact that Iraqi children are being denied access to milk by the president of a country that claims to be a democracy and a defender of human rights?

AL-QADISIYAH adds: While putting these facts before the world public, we would like to affirm to Bush, his allies, and his agents that the will of our people is stronger than all of them and that the powerful and unified Iraq will triumph over the criminal conspiracy which has various manifestations, forms, and measures. God grants victory to the faithful.

The paper indicates that all the facts that have rearranged the equations of the United States and its allies were the reason behind the confused decisions and measures of President Bush's administration. The paper adds: These facts also caused this administration to propagate lies and falsehoods to justify its new conspiratorial scheme against Iraq. That is why it drew a false picture of an exposed scenario on Iraq's alleged intentions against the lands of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] at a time when the Americans and their agent Fahd know quite well [words indistinct].

AL-QADISIYAH asserts that Iraq is committed to its pledges and treaties and is eager to maintain Arab solidarity and ties with Arab brothers. The paper adds: In the case of Kuwait and the merger unity achieved with Iraq, the motherland, it is a special case that has its well-known historical conditions and causes. This case is totally different from any other case involving any other Arab state. In spite of this and to justify the new link in the conspiracy against Iraq, the United States, in direct coordination with the agent Fahd, committed an unforgivable crime against Iraq, the Arab nation, and the principles of the true Islamic religion when it dispatched its large armies as well as the armies of its Western and other allies to invade the holy sites in Najd and Hejaz and began to make hysterical announcements about the numbers of their troops, fleets, and aircraft in a desperate show of force meant to frighten Iraq and the Iraqis and to commit an aggression against us.

INA Reports 'Aziz Remarks on Chemical Weapons

JN1908051990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2203 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Washington, 18 Aug (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that some people's insistence on comprehensive destruction, which the U.S. Government intends in the region against our people, is the most dangerous threat to life and human values.

In an interview with the U.S. CBS television network, aired live from Baghdad today, 'Aziz added: There is a profound feeling in this region that the U.S. Government is pursuing a double-standard position in tackling the region's issues.

He pointed out that when the issue is related to Israel's occupation of the West Bank and its barbaric actions against the Arabs, and when we lodge a complaint with the Security Council seeking a denunciation resolution, the U.S. envoy uses the veto and objects to denouncing the Israelis. The U.S. envoy did the same regarding the dispatch of a three-member, fact-finding mission to the occupied Arab territory.

He stressed that the Iraqi people do not intend any harm to anyone or to any country's legitimate interests. Nevertheless, we want to live in peace. He added: But, when we see the current U.S. actions, we realize that the U.S. Government is, in fact, carrying out many war actions against Iraq such as the blockade the U.S. Navy is imposing on Iraq, something which conflicts with the harsh and unjust UN Security Council Resolution 661.

He added that Iraq will not use chemical weapons unless the United States uses nuclear weapons against it.

Foreign Sources Cite Assassination Rumors, Desertions

NC2008074190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0335 GMT 20 Aug 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Numerous radio stations have carried reports about various aspects of the deteriorating situation in Iraq. Abu Dhabi radio said that reports from Baghdad indicate that numerous rumors were circulated there about the assassination of the Iraqi president's deputy, 'Izzat Ibrahim, and Iraqi Defense Minister 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal. Other reports said that a large group of Iraqi officers have been executed and that there are more tanks in Baghdad's streets each day.

Riyadh radio quoted sources in the Kuwaiti Embassy in Jordan who said that numerous Iraqi soldiers continue to desert to flee the Iraqi regime's tyranny. The radio adds that these soldiers assert that they reject the invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

To counter this deteriorating situation, Iraq has resorted to adopting resolutions such as the one broadcast on Baghdad radio regarding the sequestration of the possessions of 64 named members of the al-Sabah family.

[At 0430 GMT on 20 August, Tehran Domestic Service in Persian says, "In its Arabic program last night, Abu Dhabi radio reported on the assassination of a number of high-ranking Iraqi officials. The radio reported that there were strong rumors there on the assassination of

Iraqi Vice President 'Izzat Ibrahim and Iraqi Defense Minister 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal. Abu Dhabi radio added that meanwhile some Arab newspapers have reported the execution of a large number of Iraqi officers—specifically, Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid. The newspapers report that the increased number of tanks on the Baghdad streets has spread panic among the people who are fleeing the city. From the outset of the Persian Gulf crisis, similar reports have been published by the news agencies. None of these reports were confirmed by independent sources."]

Cairo Paper on Defecting Soldier's Comments

NC1808124190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] The Cairo daily AL-AHRAM reports that an Iraqi soldier who defected to Cairo after participating in the invasion of Kuwait stated that he refused to shoot his Arab brothers. The paper quotes the soldier as saying that the Iraqi command made the soldiers believe that they would fight Israel and liberate Palestine via Lebanon but that they found themselves inside Kuwait. The soldier added that the Iraqi soldiers fight under pressure of the execution battalion, which has been instructed to kill any soldier who does not obey military orders.

Official Says Popular Army Reaches 1.5 Million

JN1908182490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1640 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Comrade Sa'di Mahdi Salih, member of the Ba'th Party regional Command, has announced that the number of popular army volunteers in Baghdad today reached 1.5 million fighters. In a statement to INA, he said that the Baghdad masses are still rushing to the party centers to register as volunteers to defend Iraq and the Arab nation. The volunteers, who are filling Baghdad squares to be trained on using all types of weapons, are determined to wage liberation battles until victory. They also pledged to the great leader that they would not take their hands off the triggers of their rifles until the last soldier of the U.S. invaders and their allies leaves the land of the Arabs, the land of sanctities. Comrade Sa'di Mahdi Salih also said that the Baghdad masses, who were honored by being allowed to participate in the battles of honor in old and modern history, are using their potential and offering themselves and what they possess to defend great Iraq and the Arab nation. They pledge to His Excellency leader President Saddam Husayn that they will be seeking martyrdom until victory is achieved over U.S. imperialism, Zionism, and their agent satellites. The regional command member stressed that the Arab people will continue to raise the banner of armed struggle against the tyrannical invaders and their supporters in the region.

Volunteers Dispatched, Receive Training

JN1808103690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] al-Basrah, 18 Aug (INA)—The number of volunteers for fighting in the southern Iraqi governorates has reached, as of today, Saturday 18 August, 1,120,897. This was announced by 'Abd- al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command and secretary of the Party Southern Bureau, in a statement to INA. He added that the volunteers are distributed among the southern governorates as follows: The al-Basrah Governorate 220,392; the Dhi Qar Governorate 351,217; the Maysan Governorate 234,651, and the Wasit Governorate 314,637.

The Ba'th Party official added that training centers have been opened in these governorates to train the volunteers on using arms, combat plans, and confronting any aggression that the imperialist and Zionist enemies might venture to launch against victorious Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur said that thousands of volunteers are receiving training on various types of weapons and with great enthusiasm in preparation for the enemies in order to teach them a lesson they will never forget and to force them to leave the holy Arab land—the land of the prophets, the holy Kaaba, and the prophet's tomb.

Minister Reacts to Sharon Call for 'Action'

JN1808114190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1035 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Reacting to statements by Ari'el Sharon, the former defense minister of the Zionist entity, Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim said the following:

At the beginning of the crisis, Israel tried to hide its head, apparently awaiting an opportunity to implement an agreement between the United States and some Arab agents that Israel should not appear in the picture and provoke Arab citizens. However, as events developed, Israel began losing patience because the aggression that had been planned against Iraq after the aggression against the holy land was not implemented.

Despite the fact that the shadow of aggression against Iraq continues to exist, Iraq's military preparedness and the growing anger by the Arab masses toward the aggression against the land of Mecca and al-Madinah, the land of Hejaz and Najd [Saudi Arabia], has forced the main plotters to reconsider their plans. This required additional time during which Israel and its officials lost patience and their nerve. They began issuing daily statements reminding their U.S. ally of the agreement and urging it to mount military action against Iraq. Therefore, whoever monitored the Israeli officials' statements over the past few days and whoever monitors Israeli

statements in the days to come will notice those aspects that the United States and its agents tried to hide at the beginning of the crisis.

Despite the fact that the plot and the plotters have in general been exposed, many of its details and roles will be revealed more and more, revealing better and better great Iraq's steadfastness and highlighting the great cause of the Arab masses. We will triumph with God's help and with the efforts of the zealous ones.

Ari'el Sharon made a statement yesterday in which he said the forces that are gathering in the Gulf under U.S. command should mount a powerful military action to reduce Iraq's power. He added that if the current crisis ends without cutting Iraq down to size, it will be a very serious matter and that the failure to deal a powerful blow to Iraq's military strength and the confidence it has in itself and its leadership will constitute a threat to Israel. He said: I say that this is not possible without military action. He added that he did not believe economic sanctions and an embargo against Iraq would force President Saddam Husayn to withdraw from Kuwait.

Kuwaiti Al-Sabah Family Property Sequestrated

JN1908104090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Aug (INA)—The Revolution Command Council has issued a decision providing for the sequestration of the movable and immovable property inside and outside Iraq belonging to the al- Sabah family and the former ministers in the defunct Kuwaiti Government. The following is text of the decision:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Decision.

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (A) of Article 42 of the Constitution;

The Revolution Command Council has decided as follows:

First, sequestrating the movable and immovable property inside and outside Iraq belonging to the persons whose names are listed below from the al-Sabah family and former ministers in the defunct Kuwaiti Government:

1. Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.
2. Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah.
3. Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah.
4. Salim al-Sabah.
5. Nawwaf al-Ahmad.
6. 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah.
7. Dr. Salim Jabir Ahmad al-Sabah.
8. Nasir Muhammad Ahmad al-Sabah.
9. Jabir Mubarak Hamad al-Sabah.
10. Faysal Khalifah Malik al-Sabah.
11. Fahd al-Ahmad al-Sabah.
12. Jabir 'Abdallah al-Jabir al-Sabah.
13. Salman Du'ayj Salman al-Sabah.
14. Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah.
15. Khalid Ahmad Jabir al-Sabah.
16. Jabir al-'Ali al-Salim al-Sabah.
17. Salim al-'Ali al-Salim al-Sabah.
18. 'Abdallah al-Jabir al-Sabah.
19. Mubarak al-'Abdallah al-Ahmad al-Sabah.
20. Du'ayj Jabir al-'Ali al-Sabah.
21. Fahd Sa'd al-'Abdallah.
22. Ahmad Fahd al-Jabir al-Sabah.
23. Mubarak al-Hamad al-Sabah.
24. Ibrahim Du'ayj al-Sabah.
25. Fahd Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.
26. Ahmad Humud Jabir al-Sabah.
27. Salim Sabah Nasir al-Sabah.
28. Ahmad Khalid al-Hamad al-Sabah.
29. 'Ali Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah.
30. Jabir al-'Abdallah Jabir al-Sabah.
31. Jabir al-'Adhbi al-Sabah.
32. 'Ali Jabir al-'Ali al-Sabah.
33. Muhammad Muhammad al-Salman al-Sabah.

[No. 34 dropped by INA but reported by Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic at 1030 GMT on 19 August as 'Ali Jarrah al-Sabah.
35. Nasir Sabah al-Ahmad.
36. Khalifah 'Abda'lah al-Khalifah al-Sabah.
37. Khalid 'Abd-al-Jabir al-Sabah.
38. 'Ali Khalid al-Sabah.
39. Mish'al 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sabah.
40. Faysal Salim al-Sabah.
41. Fahd Muhammad al-Sabah.
42. Khalid Nasir al-Sabah.
43. Munir Ibrahim al-Sabah.
44. 'Ali 'Abdallah al-Sabah.
45. Sabah Khalid al-Sabah.
46. Mubarak Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.
47. Hamad Sabah al-Ahmad.
48. Muhammad Khalid Ahmad Jabir al-Sabah.
49. Talal Khalid Ahmad Jabir al-Sabah.
50. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub.
51. Jasim Muhammad al-Musa.
52. Habib Jawhar Hayat.
53. Dr. Humud 'Abdallah al-Ruqbah.
54. Dr. Rashid Salim al-'Umayri.
55. Salman 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Mutawwa'.
56. Dari 'Abdallah al-'Uthman.
57. Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abdallah al-'Awadi.
58. Dr. 'Abdallah Yusuf al-Ghunaym.
59. Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Sulayman al-Qawazin.
60. Dr. 'Ali 'Abdallah al-Shamlan.
61. Eng. Fahd 'Abdallah al-Hasawi.
62. Muhammad Nasir al-'Uthman.
63. Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan.
64. Eng. Yahya Fahd al-Sumayt.

Second, the competent ministers and quarters shall implement this decision.

Kuwait City May Be Transferred Into Free Zone

JN1808106590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Aug (INA)—The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that a committee has been formed to study the transfer of the city of Kuwait into a free zone. The study will reassure businessmen and financiers and will facilitate financial and trade transactions between Kuwait and the world.

INA Carries Saddam Letters to Iranian Leaders

21 Apr

JN1808150190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1326 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 August (INA)—On 26 Ramadan 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 21 April 1990, President Saddam Husayn sent a letter to Iranian leaders dealing with ways to achieve permament and comprehensive peace between the two neighboring countries. The following is the text of the letter:

Your Excellency 'Ali Khamene'i;

Your Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani;

Peace be upon you;

I have on previous occasions during the war addressed you in an indirect manner through the Iraqi media, which were the only means available to us then to tell you what we wanted to say. In return, I heard what you said through your media. The most recent initiative we addressed to you, which stemmed from an undeniable intention to establish just and comprehensive peace, was the one we announced on 5 January 1990. However, so far we have not managed to achieve together the peace we wish to have between our two countries to move away together from the tragedies of war and the possibilities of it exploding again.

It is understandable that suspicions, doubts, and dubious explanations surround what is (good?) and what could be used to build hopes on. And now, without having to repeat our views, which we expressed earlier, you should express in return your views so that dialogue is not pushed further away from its rightful arena and constructive objectives, and so it does not start heading toward argument, in which differences might appear to overcome the agreements we wish to reach to realize actual, immediate, and comprehensive peace, not only between Iraq and Iran, but between the Arab nation and Iran, God willing.

I address you directly this time to propose in this blessed month, during which the Muslims fast in hopes of gaining God's approval, to hold a direct meeting between us to be attended by God's servant, the sender of this message, and Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim, as well as a team of our aides, in which you will be represented by 'Ali Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani and a team of your aides. I also suggest that the meeting be held in Holy Mecca, the Qiblah of the Muslims when praying to God and the ancient shelter where our lord Ibrahim established peace, or any other place we agree on. Let us work together to establish the peace expected by our people and the whole Islamic nation, thus sparing further bloodshed that might flow once again for one reason or another.

There is the potential for the forces that had a hand in stoking the sedition between Iran and Iraq to reignite war so as to keep peace out of our two countries.

You must, no doubt, be aware of the threats made by Zionism and certain super and major powers against Iraq and the Arab nation. Without a doubt, you must know that the idea is to give Zionism a free hand to spread corruption and bulldoze whoever stands in the way of injustice and thwarts its vicious designs in the region and works to remove its occupation of Arab Palestine and Jerusalem, which is cherished by every Muslim and all believers in God and his books and the hereafter.

These evil forces whose hopes we trust will, God willing, be frustrated and their arrows miss their targets, must—with the necessary means at their disposal—surely want to reignite the bloody, armed conflict betweeen Iran on the one hand and Iraq and the Arab nation on the other. Then the Muslims will not only have missed the opportunity to mobilize all their resources and capabilities to liberate their sanctities in Palestine, but will have forfeited a good deal of their assets.

We propose that what Iraq and Iran each aims to rightly attain is possible through face-to-face meetings between us. We will thus have forestalled our enemies who are out to spoil our desire for peace, if our peace intentions are sincere in accordance with what satisfies God and our peoples.

For our part, it is a deeply held desire, and we only wish that you and we each attain our respective, balanced inalienable rights.

I propose that you and I meet as soon as possible and that the meeting be held on the second day of 'id al-Fitr or on any other date that is agreed upon.

As for your visit to Mecca and the usual ceremonies set up by the host nation, in view of the bonds of brotherhood and mutual respect between us and our brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, we will request our brother King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz to order the necessary arrangements. The content of this letter has as yet to be communicated to him.

By way of facilitating this meeting, we suggest, and hope you will agree, that each of us have a representative in Tehran and Baghdad and that direct telephone communication be opened between the two capitals in the

interest of the necessary contacts. May God be witness to this communication, and peace be upon you.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, 26 Ramadan 1410 Hejira corresponding to 21 April 1990

19 May

JN1908093890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0727 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Aug [INA]—President Saddam Husayn addressed a letter to [Iranian Islamic Revolution leader] 'Ali Khamene'i and Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 19 May 1990 in response to a reply letter he received from the Iranian leaders. The following is text of the letter:

Mr. 'Ali Khamene'i,

Mr. 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani,

I received your written letter dated 6 Shawwal 1410 Hegira [1 May 1990] in reply to our letter to you dated 26 Ramadan 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 21 April 1990. I and my brothers in the leadership read and re-read it several times. Although we understood from your letter that you agree to our proposal to hold a meeting between us at summit level in order to find a decisive and final solution to the outstanding problems between our countries which caused or resulted from the conflict, and we were pleased with that, the spirit of the letter itself was not as we had hoped. Because the letter contained cynical [mubattanah] terms at the beginning, and whenever there was an opportunity to use them, and harsh terms at the end.

Gentlemen, when we thought of writing directly to you, we considered all aspects of our special relationship and found that direct correspondence and the relationship it establishes is more effective in achieving direct contact and dialogue and that there isn't a better and more beneficial and effective way to achieve the desired peace between Iraq and Iran, and in fact between the Arab nation and Iran. We know and assume that you also understand that peace between us cannot be achieved by one side only being convinced, while the other side is not equally convinced, or by one side only showing interest, while the other side does not show equal interest or share the same ideas, meanings, and methods.

Before writing our first letter, we recalled that we have used the strongest and perhaps the harshest terms against each other during the past 10 years. And despite the effect of that method on the conflict and war between us, it did not achieve peace. Your letter included such terms as "the imposed war" and "slow understanding." You also concluded your letter with the sentence "peace be upon those who heeded right guidance" [a term used by Prophet Muhammad in his messages to then Roman, Persian, and Abyssenian rulers asking them to convert to Islam] rather than the term "peace be upon you" which is normally used in such correspondence.

Because we want peace—only out of its great meanings to us and to our beliefs—our message contains conceptions and expressions in harmony with our human understanding and noble objectives. Thus, we have only used expressions which please God and the people. To start with, using these expressions does not mean a change in all our conceptions and views; rather, it means that we desire to open a new chapter which is closer to the other party and more capable of affecting it in the interest of the approach of peace, which we deem as a noble objective of benefit to our people and to humanity at large. And because this method is the proper and suitable method for such objectives and means, duty mandates that we should try and use a new way of addressing each other, which is different from the way used during the war and the time before. Moreover, using the expressions and vocabulary which were used during the war should not lead either of the two parties to believe that an extra capability has been added to what is known to be possessed by the two parties of the dispute. Neither does this help to bear out a matter as right. Furthermore, using appropriate expressions for such address, in case it does not add to his power and assist him—after depending on God—will not diminish any portion of its capability and will not diminish any established right, but would be a luminous path into the hearts which were burdened and gravely injured by war. This would help these hearts, in case they should opt for seeking the truth, and qualify them to do what is good for the sake of establishing peace.

Therefore, we have found that what is appropriate for correspondence between us is that we should not confirm what we view as our right so that you might not rush to confirm what you view as your right, and thus there might not be an opportunity for the required psychological readiness so as we both might accept direct dialogue. By saying this, we do not mean to close the door to dialogue, which would open through the direct connection of what we both view as useful; so that each one of us would know the connection between the first step and the last step on the road of peace; so as to be able to view the peace process as a whole right from its very beginning; and to see the connection of what one deems his right to that which the other views as his right.

It is preferable that, as we pursue peace, neither of us should be preoccupied with the past at the expense of the future, because dwelling on the events of the past makes the one who does so in the eyes of our people—who are more capable of knowing the traits of each one of us—stand accused of being slow-witted. While saying this, we do not want to escape from the past, because you know, or can realize, that we are capable of presenting in the arena of debate about the inception of war and hostility and how it all began, sufficient documents which support our viewpoint in detail. You also know that documents are more effective in convincing the widest segment of our people and humanity at large than mere sayings and preconceptions of either of the two countries' leaderships.

You are fully aware that the questions on and preoccupation with this issue, if deemed to be a prelude for our discussions, considering that this would have chronological significance as you used to say before July 1990, requires time and effort to support the argument—a time period that will be as long as the war or longer than the war years. You are also well aware that each side to the conflict has its own story on when the conflict erupted. On this, each side bases its story on practical and legal facts different from the facts used by the other side. From this, it would become clear which party is entitled to describe the war as an imposed one and which party has the right to indicate that it sent messages rather than troops.

As for UN Security Council Resolution 598, we have viewed it, since our acceptance of this resolution when it was issued in July 1987, as a comprehensive and durable peace plan containing what the two countries can agree upon. We have noted that the principles and provisions contained in it would help us reach an agreement. That is why we have adhered and continue to adhere to the need to implement the resolution on the basis of this understanding. While pursuing peace, we base our positions on the equal desire of both countries for peace and their awareness of the benefits that they stand to draw from such peace. We also believe that they have the same enthusiasm for attaining this peace. Therefore, neither of the two sides to the conflict is asked to pay an advance price for the direct meeting. The only prerequisites are a serious desire for peace and the use of significant practical terminolgy. When peace is achieved, it is taken for granted that the army of each country will be on its own territory and that it will not have a presence on any hilltop or inch of territory or in the territorial waters of the other country—the developments created by special circumstances and considerations relating to the ceasefire and the no war, no peace situation.

You have said in your message that you withdrew from Iraqi territory and here you are referring to your withdrawal from Halabjah under special and well-known circumstances, to the end of the sentence.

Our comment on this is that we withdrew from your lands which our armies entered under well-known circumstances at the outset of the armed conflict in 1980. This withdrawal took place on 20 June 1982 after we had announced the withdrawal decision in our news media on 10 June 1982. In this announcement, we said that we would withdraw within a maximum of 10 days. This was actually carried out. As for your troop withdrawal from Halabjah, it was carried out under special combat conditions which are different from the conditions under which our armies withdrew.

Hence, if you consider your withdrawal from Halabjah, which was implemented under special circumstances, evidence of good faith showing that you do not covet anybody's territory, it would be a more powerful argument for us to say that our withdrawal from your lands in 1982 and after the fourth Tawakkalna 'Al-allah battles in the southern and central sectors in July 1988 were further evidence, to be added to other pieces of evidence, showing our good faith and the lack of a desire on Iraq's part to keep any inch of Iranian territory.

Anyhow, we believe that peace means that no side should usurp any inalienable right of the other side. It also means that each side to the conflict should not keep any inch of the other side's territory or territorial waters. This is the policy which we have been reiterating and adhering to in the most precarious and hostile circumstances. Therefore, it is only natural that we will adhere to this policy at a time when we are urging you to adhere to it while conducting peace negotiations and to help achieve peace, God willing.

From your reply to the inquiries our ambassador in Geneva presented to your ambassador there about what was cited in your letter to us on a preliminary meeting between representatives from both sides, we have learned that you prefer this method in preparing for a summit meeting. We agree to this arrangement and have authorized Barazan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, our ambassador in Geneva, to hold talks with Sirus Naseri, your ambassador there.

We are of the opinion that the task of our two representatives is to exchange views on the positions of both sides so that each side can familiarize itself with the other side's position vis-a-vis the issues that are of concern to us. The two representatives might be able to agree on some points in a manner that will clarify the picture for us when we meet on the summit level. This may also facilitate our mission, provided that the points of disagreement are left for the summit meeting.

As for the venue of the summit, we are still awaiting a definite answer from you because we did not find in your reply a decisive opinion about the venue we proposed, that is, holy Mecca. This might also be one of the topics to be discussed by the two representatives.

As for who will attend the summit, we still believe that a summit meeting should comprise all basic decision-makers in the two countries, provided that you really accept the idea of a meeting on the summit level and, depending on God, seek to attain this aim together with us because the attendance of both of us on the summit level is a test of the seriousness of this trend to settle matters by final solutions acceptable to the two sides. If this, with God's help, is achieved, a lasting and comprehensive peace will prevail. Keeping the basic decision-makers, who can say no or yes, outside the summit will affect the implementation of what is agreed on and influence the degree of commitment to it. Excluding them will not serve the purpose nor adequately reassure them and this might lead to obstructing or amending any decisions reached during the summit.

Moreover, peace begins where its psychological beginning starts—inside those who weave its threads, so that it will remain constant in the heart. Therefore, the one who participates in making peace right from the beginning

will find out that he is ethically and psychologically responsible for implementing and abiding by it. Moreover, the presence of all decisionmakers will dismiss any excuse that might complicate or delay the peace process after agreeing to it. Therefore, we reaffirm our proposal that the summit meeting be attended on our side by the chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and president of the republic and by the RCC vice chairman, and on the Iranian side by Mr. 'Ali Khamene'i and Mr. 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. God stand witness to our good intention. Peace be upon you.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, Baghdad 24 Shawwal 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 19 May 1990

Yemeni Envoy Arrives, Shows Support for Saddam

JN1908185290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Aug (INA)—Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen, arrived in Baghdad this evening. Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, was on hand to welcome him.

Muhammad told INA the Arab nation is now at a crossroads and threatened with a foreign and an imperialist-Zionist alliance out to subjugate the Arab nation to an imperialist scheme. We came to Iraq as representatives of the Yemeni people and leadership led by His Excellency Chairman 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to the people of Iraq and their courageous leadership under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. We are here to demonstrate our full support for Iraq and our rejection of the economic blockade and imperialist scheme against steadfast Iraq, Muhammad said Iraq is an expression of the Arab nation's aspirations for progress and development. The Republic of Yemen, he added, supports the comprehensive political initiative announced by President Saddam Husayn calling for the pullback of Iraqi military forces from the border with Iran and the release of Iranian POW's.

Accompanying the Presidential Council member on the visit is Dr. Hasan Muhammad Makki, first deputy prime minister.

Official Calls Use of Hostages 'Barbaric Act'

TA1808185690 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] This act deserves every condemnation—this is how Jerusalem is reacting this evening to reports about Iraq's attitude towards foreign civilians there. Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, said in response to a question by our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin that this is an inhuman act by a government which did not hesitate to use gas bombs against its citizens in the past. The use of hostages as live shields and their starvation is a barbaric act, the prime minister's media adviser stated.

Cabinet Views Attempt To Embroil Israel in War

TA1908144590 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The situation in the Persian Gulf was discussed at length at today's cabinet session. Security briefings continue to be pessimistic, saying that a war is highly likely and that an attempt will be made to embroil Israel in it.

A communique released by the cabinet secretary states: The Israeli Government continues to follow developments in the Gulf crisis and their repercussions with the utmost alertness and strictness.

In the ensuing debate it was noted that, with the exception of Jordan, there have been no cracks in the economic siege on Iraq and that, in the wake of Saddam Husayn's concessions, Iran apparently has no intention of reversing its position and starting to support Iraq.

Government 'Worried' King Husayn Lacks Control

TA1908102290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that over the past year there have been several clashes on the Jordanian border, most of them with Jordanian soldiers of Palestinian extraction. The Jordanian Army has in the last few months taken several measures to step up its control of the border and prevent the infiltration of soldiers and terrorists.

Our correspondent points out that Israel has in the last few days been closely following the movements of Jordanian Army troops in the direction of al-'Aqabah and the Jordan Rift Valley. In light of the demonstrations and statements in support of Iraq and the establishment of civil guard units in Jordan, Israel is particularly worried that King Husayn may no longer be in control, as he was in the past, of what goes on in his country.

Jordanian Soldier Killed, Second Captured

TA1908100790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0952 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Here is an announcement from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman: A Jordanian soldier was killed and a second one was injured and taken captive by an IDF patrol during a clash which took place this morning south of the Damiya Bridge. There were no casualties among our forces.

The IDF spokesman said that a routine IDF patrol which was moving along the border fence discovered the entry tracks of two persons south of the Damiya Bridge. After following the tracks the patrol identified two armed figures dressed in Jordanian Army uniforms. The two men were ordered to halt but failed to respond and then opened fire on the IDF troops. The Israeli soldiers shot back and one of the Jordanian soldiers was killed during the clash. The second Jordanian soldier suffered light wounds. He was captured and turned over for interrogation. There were no IDF casualties.

Cabinet Told Infiltration Unconnected to Gulf

TA1908112990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the Cabinet today received a security briefing and was told that the infiltration by the Jordanian soldiers is unconnected to the Gulf crisis. Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan said that the incident shows that King Husayn's throne is in danger and the Jordanian regime faces a severe problem in maintaining its control.

Levi Calls For Immediate Gas Mask Distribution

TA1908163890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi today demanded that gas masks be distributed to the population without further delay. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that, according to Minister Levi, the distribution of gas masks is called for by the situation. We cannot delay this any further in view of the uncertainty of the situation, Levi said. Foreign Minister David Levi rejected the assumption that distributing the gas masks might be misinterpreted. He believes that any reason for hesitation on this issue on our part, which might have been correct until last week, no longer exists in view of the threatening events and developments.

Defense Says Gas Masks Not Necessary at Present

TA1908172990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] This evening the defense establishment responded to Minister David Levi's demand for gas masks to be distributed without delay. It said: The way to discuss the

issue is not through media announcements. The issue was thoroughly discussed by the defense establishment and the Army and it has been decided that at this stage there is no need to distribute the gas masks. If the need for them arises, it will be done quickly. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe was told that there is no panic and that nothing happened last week that would warrant altering the previous decision.

Decline in Port Activity Reported at Al-'Aqabah

17 Aug

JN1708150090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Aug 90 (Special Edition) pp 1, 4

[Text] Al-'Aqabah—Amid growing apprehension that this Red Sea port could be the target of what the U.S. describes as "quarantine" but in effect could be a naval blockade against Iraqi exports and imports, shipping executives here are reporting a sizeable decline in business since the Gulf crisis erupted Aug. 2.

Two ships docked at the port Thursday, raising to 15 the total number of vessels berthed, but officials said once the vessels were unloaded and left, port activities would come down to a trickle since the bulk of facilities here is designed to cater to Iraqi exports and imports, which could come to a standstill if the U.S.-led "interdiction" plan is implemented in full.

The rate of ships docked at the harbour has declined drastically from an average of 35 ships a day to 15, most of which had arrived prior to the Kuwaiti crisis.

A key to the success of the U.S.-led campaign to impose a blockade against Iraq, this tiny southern town has come under heavy pressures, fuelling frustration and anger against Washington.

"How dare Washington ask us to stop sending food supplies and medicine while at the same time it expects Jordan to maintain its borders open with Iraq to facilitate the evacuation of Western nationals?" asked 'Isam Qa'war, an executive of Amin and Sons, one of the leading companies in the country.

"They are trying to force us to starve 14 million Arabs," said an angry truck driver who has been working on the al-'Aqabah-Baghdad route since 1982.

Although United Nations Security Council sanctions normally exclude food supplies and medicine, shipping agents said that many cargo owners had stopped Iraqi-bound food cargoes after several Western countries froze Iraqi assets.

"The contracts were made prior to the sanctions, but the freezing of the assets had made cargo owners order a halt to the discharging of all goods, including food supplies and medicine," a port official explained.

According to economists' estimates, ingoing and outgoing goods for Iraq amount to around 50 per cent of the total volume handled by the port. At the same time, however, an embargo against al-'Aqabah will deal a heavy blow to Jordanian exports and imports.

Economist Fahd al-Fanik estimates that more than 50 per cent of Jordan's exports, mainly potash, cement, phosphates and fertilisers are handled by the port.

"Any embargo against al-'Aqabah is a killer decision," said a former trade official.

Jawad al-'Anani, an economist and former minister, said he expected the losses in the first year to amount to $1.2 billion if income of the related sectors of transit, spare part shops, resthouses, etc. were included.

"If this situation continues, tens of thousands will starve as thousands will find themselves jobless," warned a shipping executive, who said he might forced to lay off employees.

Officials said the livelihood of 5,000 workers at the dock and more than 20,000 drivers of transit containers were immediately threatened if the port was forced to stop.

Although the U.S., which has threatened to intercept ships going in or out of the port, has not officially declared a blockade, shipping agents and other al-'Aqabah residents feel besieged by a de facto embargo.

Qa'war reported that four ships handled by his agency cancelled their trips while two Cuban vessels, laden with food supplies, were held at Port Sa'id.

"We were informed that the cargo owners ordered the captains to stop," he said. "But how could this possibily be the case since Cuba has declared that it was not abiding by the embargo," Qa'war said, voicing suspicion that the Egyptian authorities are holding up the two ships.

The situation appeared worse Thursday when Tanga, a floating storage grain tanker which has been docked at the port since 1984, was ordered back by its Norwegian owners. Tanga served as a storage for Iraqi-bound grain supplies. "It had not more goods to store," said a port official.

Shipping executives were angry at cargo owner's decision to stop shipments of food supplies to Iraq. "This is against international law," said a shipping agent.

Tourism, another major source of income to al-'Aqabah, has also suffered. Hotel managers report a 20 per cent drop in reservations. A hotel manager showed journalists telexes from European tourists cancelling reservations. "In view of the explosive political situation, we have to cancel our reservations this year. See you next year," a telex said.

Despite the gloomy mood, residents and workers express an air of defiance against the American threats.

"If the embargo takes place, I will volunteer to fight alongside the Iraqi soldiers," a Jordanian container driver said to the cheers and loud applause of fellow drivers at a resthouse near the main al-Itahad transit container parking lot.

Aug 18

NC1808091290 Paris AFP in English 0856 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Amman, Aug 18 (AFP)—Authorities at the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah on Saturday began

unloading sugar from a Cypriot-registered ship destined for Iraq without authorization from its captain, an al-'Aqabah shipping agent said. [passage omitted]

The agent said the ship, whose skipper is a Briton, had attempted to set off for the Israeli port of Elat on the Red Sea but was prevented from sailing by Jordanian authorities as his vessel was already in Jordanian territorial waters.

He said only two other ships were anchored at al-'Aqabah, one carrying cement and the other phosphate—both destined for export. Another vessel, the Farah I, which ferries passengers between al-'Aqabah and Nuwaybi' along the Egyptian Sinai coastline, was off the port of al-'Aqabah.

But three ships expected in al-'Aqabah for the past three days have not arrived, the agent said, adding that two were blocked in the Suez Canal while the third's location was unknown. The Red Sea Ensign, with 140 containers of food products for Iraq and a shipment for Jordan was blocked in the Suez Canal. An unidentified Japanese ship with 700 cars destined for Iraq was also stuck in the Canal, he said. The (Ibn Zaydun), a Kuwait-registered ship with a mixed cargo from East Asia that was to have arrived on Wednesday has meawhile not been located, the agent said.

He said the port's activity was now down to one-fifth of normal.

Fewer ships have been calling at al-'Aqabah in the wake of the Gulf crisis, while the number of trucks transporting goods from the port to Iraq has dropped by half after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

A source at the Jordanian port, Iraq's only outlet to the sea since the embargo took effect, said Friday that prior to the invasion as many as 400 trucks had loaded goods for Iraq each day at al-'Aqabah.

On Thursday U.S. President George Bush held crucial talks with Jordan's King Husayn at the former's vacation home in Maine during which the U.S. President requested that the port be closed to Iraqi goods. King Husayn said his country would abide by the sanctions but wanted clarification from the United Nations on its scope.

Trucks Leave for Iraq

NC1908130390 Paris AFP in English 1216 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, Aug 19 (AFP)—Trucks loaded with frozen meat, cotton and other goods left the Jordanian port of al-'Aqabah for Iraq Sunday as two Iraqi freighters were authorized to unload their cargoes, an al-'Aqabah shipping agent reported.

He said the two vessels, the Fao and the Khawla Bint al-'Azur, had been in Jordanian territorial waters for the "past several days." [passage omitted]

The agent said another Iraqi vessel, the Zayn al-Qaws, was due soon in al-'Aqabah with a shipment of food and newsprint.

Jordan has said it will abide by a United Nations trade embargo on Iraq, approved by the Security Council August 6 to protest the invasion of Kuwait, but Jordanian officials have argued the measure does not apply to food and medicine.

Loading, Unloading 'Normal'

JN1908184490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] The director general of the Ports Corporation said four ships loaded with goods for Jordan arrived in al-'Aqabah port today. In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, he said these ships are the West German (Dorthy), loaded with containers of goods; the Panamanian (Kaycock), loaded with containers of goods; the Indian (Praporioti), which transports Jordanian phosphate; and the Chinese (Atarchil), which is loaded with containers of goods for Jordan. He said that a number of ships arrive daily and the port's authority performs its normal duty toward the arriving ships in terms of loading and unloading.

Prince Hasan Says UN Sanctions Accepted

LD1708202690 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1920 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] King Husayn's brother, Crown Prince Hasan, said tonight that Jordan had accepted the UN's mandatory sanctions and had already effectively started to wind down the movement of goods. And the prince warned that the Gulf crisis would inevitably lead to "more militancy and more extremism" throughout the Arabic and Muslim world.

Interviewed on ITN's [Independent Television News] Channel 4 news, the prince said: "There is a strong Arabic and Muslim feeling biding its breath, hoping for a speedy consolidation of an Arabic or Islamic position to contain the Kuwait/Iraq crisis and to get it out of the international arena. Whoever wins—not that there is any winner in a war situtation—there is going to be more militancy and more extremism the length and breadth of the Arabic and Moslem world."

He said the question of the use of weapons of mass destruction would have to be addressed. "The problem no one is really daring to put into words is what happens when the troops are finally in place. Do we sit about risking the possibility of a shooting war or do we go back to the UN and say, isn't it time to move with the regional organisations, the Arab League, the Islamic countries, all of whom are deeply distressed about the military action of one Muslim and Arab country against another?" he said.

Prince Hasan defended his country against accusations of ambiguity over its position on sanctions. In enforcing

sanctions, Jordan's position was different from that of other countries. Jordan had "excellent relations" with its Gulf neighbours and the problem of movement of humanitarian goods, such as food, had to be considered, he said.

"So if we are accused of ambiguity it is unfair and deeply resented in this country. War or peace, we are the country which stands to suffer the most," said the prince.

The prince was then asked whether President Bush had offered King Husayn any concrete recompense for the sacrifices that would be made if sanctions were enforced. He said that the Arab people could not be recompensed for any loss of life and suffering that a war would bring. "That is our main concern. But we are prepared to face our future. As far as the economy is concerned we were in bad straits anyway even before the crisis. However, I'm interested to see that OPEC countries are now offering to pump Kuwait and Iraq's share (of oil) and I think that's another dangerous escalation in the game," he concluded.

Official Says Food, Drugs Not Included

JN2008072190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Amman (Petra)—The Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Sunday expressed their appreciation and support for His Majesty King Husayn's pan-Arab stand and the government and pledged allegiance to the leadership of the King.

In a press statement issued after a joint meeting for the two Houses, Upper House Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi, who chaired the meeting, said both Houses were briefed by Prime Minister Mudar Badran on the latest developments in the Gulf, both regionally and internationally. Badran also briefed both Houses on the efforts made by the King and his contacts with the Arab leaders who have adopted positions identical to that of Jordan, "which is based on rejecting all forms of foreign intervention or build-up of forces in the Gulf region," al Lawzi said.

Al-Lawzi said Badran briefed Parliament on the importance of the visit King Husayn made to the United States last week and his meeting with President George Bush noting in this regard that Jordan had, from the very beginning of the Gulf crisis, sought to find an Arab solution to this inter-Arab affair. He noted that the current escalation of forces and the threat to use force does not serve regional security or peace, and said that "Had the Jordanian and other pan-Arab initiatives received full Arab cooperation and attention the crisis would not have exacerbated to this extent."

Al-Lawzi said members of both Houses voiced support for measures and policies adopted by the government.

Lower House Speaker Sulayman 'Arar said that the deputies discussed issues pertaining to supply, foreign and internal policies.

In answer to a question about the United Nations Security Council resolution calling for sanctions against Iraq, 'Arar said: "We do not understand the resolution as a ban on food and drugs but rather a ban on imports and exports."

He said that the House's understanding of the resolution was that it was not meant to be a blockade because a "blockade in our view is a violation of international law and is considered an act of war and thus should not be implemented by any state against any other state unless there was an unambiguous decision to this effect."

'Arar said the position of the Lower House on the Gulf crisis "is totally consistent with that of the government."

He stressed that the Iraqi people "are able to defend themselves." He denounced attacks against Iraq, and "the blockade being imposed on it to starve its children and prevent the supply of food and milk to them."

'Arar pointed out that neither the Jordanian people nor the Parliament accept such a blockade and stressed that Jordan rejects the build-up of forces on the Arab Peninsula.

'Arar noted that the United Nations had adopted so many decisions and that Arab peoples were evicted from their homeland, yet America did not move to implement these decisions.

Al-Qasim Protests Interception of Sudanese Ship

JN1908181690 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman has said that since the eruption of the Gulf crisis, Jordan has been providing all possible assistance to facilitate the passage of all foreigners arriving in the Kingdom through the Iraqi border or other points. Jordan committed itself to this humanitarian service by making passage routes available and setting up stations to receive the refugees and enable them to travel to air and sea ports.

The spokesman added: Yesterday, a U.S. Navy vessel intercepted a Sudanese ship named Dungulah. The ship, which had no cargo, was en route from Sudan to al-'Aqabah to ferry Sudanese nationals, who were crowding the port. They amounted to about 800 people together with their cars and luggage. The U.S. Navy vessel forced the Sudanese ship to change course and move southward.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the representative of the Sudanese shipping company in Jeddah, who received the news from the ship's captain, told the company's office in al-'Aqabah that the ship was unable to sail to the port. This has further aggravated the crowding in al-'Aqabah because huge numbers of people are arriving from our border with Iraq. Our capabilities cannot provide the necessary facilities and services to this huge number of people. We are already making far more efforts than we can afford. The Jordanian workers continue to provide these humanitarian facilities day

and night to enable tens of thousands of Arab and foreign nationals from all over the world to return to their countries.

The spokesman concluded: Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, summoned the U.S. ambassador in Amman and protested the interception of the Sudanese ship by the U.S. Navy vessels despite the fact that the Sudanese ship said it had no cargo and that it was hired by the Sudanese Government to transport its nationals. Al-Qasim told the ambassador that this regrettable incident thwarts Jordanian efforts to provide this humanitarian service at a time when it is needed, more than ever before, by all foreign nationals arriving in the Kingdom. The minister said that Jordan is hoping that all countries of the world will look at the humanitarian aspect from a single perspective. After the U.S. ambassador found out that the information was true, he expressed his government's regret for the incident.

Foreign Nationals Continue Fleeing Iraq

9,000 18 Aug

NC1808172590 Paris AFP in English 1632 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, Aug 18 (AFP)—More than 9,000 foreigners, mostly Egyptians, crossed from Iraq into Jordan Saturday, a Jordanian official source said.

He said they entered Jordan at the Ruwayshid border crossing between midnight and 2 p.m. local time (2100 GMT Friday to 1100 GMT Saturday).

He added that 6,249 of the 9,110 persons were Egyptians, while the others were Sudanese, Ethiopians and Pakistanis.

On Friday 12,068 foreigners, including 8,707 Egyptians, crossed into Jordan at Ruwayshid, the source added.

In addition, two Americans, four Canadians, four West Germans, 440 Poles, 232 Soviet citizens, three Yugoslavs, eight French citizens, and a number of others arrived on Friday.

Others included Indians, Pakistanis, Filipinos, Thais, Turks, Ethiopians and Bengalis.

In the face of the arrival of so many Egyptians, the Jordanian Government has asked Egypt to set up an air-lift between Amman and Cairo, or Amman and al-'Aqabah, or step up ship connections between al-'Aqaba and the Suez Canal, the source said.

French Nationals

NC1808094190 Paris AFP in English 0903 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, Aug 18 (AFP)—Eight Indian and Pakistani-born French nationals have arrived here by road from Iraq, Jordanian border officials and the French embassy said Saturday.

The embassy, confirming their arrival, said it had not been in contact with them, adding that from their names it appeared that they were Indian and Pakistani in origin.

Border officials at al-Ruwayshid, 270 kilometers (168 miles) east of here, said the eight persons crossed the border there on Friday.

Iraq late Friday announced that it was holding foreign residents whose governments have taken hostile steps against Iraqi interests.

France has been among several Western nations to strengthen is naval presence in the Gulf following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait August 2.

12,600 19 Aug

NC1908202490 Paris AFP in English 1947 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, Aug 19 (AFP)—More than 12,600 people fleeing Iraq and Kuwait crossed into Jordan from Iraq at the al-Ruwayshid border post on Sunday, an official Jordanian spokesman said.

The spokesman said that 12,656 people had crossed into Jordan at the border checkpoint on Sunday, including 8,607 Egyptians.

Nine Soviet nationals, 43 Romanians and 14 Greeks and a German were also among those crossing into Jordan, the spokesman said.

The other expatriates fleeing the Gulf crisis triggered by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait were mainly Indians, Pakistanis and Filipinos, he added.

Crown Prince Hasan Holds News Conference 15 Aug

JN1808073090 Amman Domestic Service in English 1608 GMT 15 Aug 90

[News conference by Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, at Jordan Television on 15 August]

[Text] [Hasan] Well, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to say that yesterday's press conference that we all heard—President Bush's press conference—was, I hope, extremely encouraging as we all look for signs of how the diplomatic option, how dialogue, how sanity, how reason can prevail. President Bush very graciously referred to his majesty's telephone call to him by saying effectively that the exchange invited the possibility of a no-agenda discussion. And I think that between His Majesty King Husayn on the one side, a statesman of 38 years experience as head of a state, and President Bush, an old and trusted friend of Jordan's, my hope is, and I think the hope of all Jordanians and everyone who yearns for peace in the Middle East, that this no-agenda discussion will lead to a wide-ranging understanding of the many, many complex problems that so many of you are trying to unravel. And I hope that anything that I say here today will contribute to further light in a process

which has to begin if we are to find solutions to a rapidly escalating situation in a tense Middle East.

I was intrigued today to hear so much on the American media about the talk of the budget deficit. And I just like to quote the EIA in the United States, the Energy Information Administration, which predicts, and let's get the parameters of the oil thing into perspective, that by the year 2000 U.S. oil imports are expected to reach 10 million barrels per day costing at a price of $30 per barrel which is about $110 billion, which staggers me because it exceeds the level of the entire current trade deficit. And of course this is another plane of the problem that we haven't touched on. We touched very centrally on the immediate problem, the military action, the invasion of Kuwait, the non-acquisition of territory by war on which we are all agreed, the importance of not changing political structures, the recognition of Jordan of the political structure of Kuwait and its integrity, and the desire of Jordan, indeed, to maintain good and close relations with all the Gulf countries, our study of the sanctions' issue and so forth. But quite frankly, I think that the developments in the region—as we see hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of troops of different nationalities in the broadened Middle East region with the three regional hotspots in mind in the street here in Jordan and in many Arab and Muslim countries—the specter of military intervention in the region and not least of all in Saudi Arabia with the clear connection in the minds of so many millions of Muslims all over the world and in Saudi Arabia itself; the question of course is: well, for how long, why, can we decelerate the problem, is there going to be a long term presence given the importance of oil? Every decade, the fifties, the sixties, the seventies, the eighties, and possibly the nineties, seems to witness a new rise of extremism and generally from the Middle East: Whether President Nasir, Ayatollah Khomeyni, and indeed today as we look more closely at the recent friction between the United States and Libya or the present situation with Iraq.

My question is continuously why can we not understand the causes? Why can there be a conference for security and cooperation in the context of Europe, confidence-building measures, containment of suspicions and fears leading to a broad-base discussion which includes the military aspect, conventional and nonconventional; the economic aspect, and indeed the political route map, which has gone so much off course particularly in recent months as the Middle East has been marginalized by world events. Well, we are not marginal any more. We are in the cockpit of world events. We are more interesting than anyone would care to be. We are all desperately worried and fearful as people of this region—as fathers, mothers, and children in this region—about what the future carries, and yet at the same time I think that there is a great deal of ego and standing on principle involved as we look at our respective positions. How can all of this be contained? We can only hope for the vision of the leadership to which we are all attached and on which we place such great hope, and I hope that the discussions between the two heads of state will lead to greater life and possibly identify some light at the end of this tunnel that we have all lived together and many of us together in Amman over the past several days. [sentence as heard]

With that, I would like to hand it over to you, and if there are any questions, I will be happy to have them.

[Reporter] Ross Simpson from NBC Radio in Washington: What is Jordan going to do vis-a-vis the UN sanctions against Iraq, and is your government telling our government one thing, and doing yet another by allowing continued heavy truck traffic from the port of al-'Aqabah, and how do you view the possibility of a possible naval blockade at al-'Aqabah?

[Hasan] Well, I think that we have to be very clear that Jordan is an open society. What we tell you, a government, that is to say the U.S. Government, in the spirit of cooperation over many, many years is blatantly obvious and clear to anyone. We do not have that degree of secrecy to hide any facts, and I think that basically, the speculation of the press has been fed by the fact that we are so open. I noticed in the port of al-'Aqabah the discussion with so many different officials, possibly like eating bland food, you just want to have the next bite to find out if it is going to be exciting. Well, there is nothing exciting about this situation other than the fact that, frankly, Jordan is feeling the pinch. The point that was made earlier this morning on "Good Morning America" that the United States is losing $20 million a day was interesting for me to hear, but I'd just like to say that Jordan is also losing an underestimate of $3 million a day, and that falls into a number of different categories, not least of all the subject of banking transactions, which of course have been stopped. Let's not forget that sanctions apply not only to Iraq but also to Kuwait. I noticed the British have come out with a formula vis-a-vis the Kuwait Investment Organization in London where they say that Kuwaiti funds are in protective custody while exercising sanctions over Iraqi funds. But that is a position of the Bank of England. I am not suggesting that we have the latitude to even think that way because small Jordan and the port of al-'Aqabah has become a major issue, and of course the strategist will look at the map and say: Well, there are so many oil outlets, let's block them all up. And finally that just leaves Jordan and the port of al-'Aqabah. I think that the subject will obviously arise in discussions between us as we communicate with the Security Council, and there, the point is very clear. The Turkish Government, among many others, have exercised the right to compensation, and indeed I believe in certain instances have actually received compensation. Article 50 of the [UN] Charter states quite clearly that compensation is what a country affected by sanctions is entitled to.

However, let us also be clear and go back to that press conference yesterday with President Bush and worry a little about what I described as escalation of, at least of all, legal terminology. We started off with sanctions and

Article 7, which basically means trade. We then moved into the subject of embargo, and then, alarmingly I think for many and not least of all for those of us in this room, as close as we are to all the weaponry that is piling into the region, we are suddenly talking about interdiction. It seems, I think, to many in this region that this package has been applied very forcefully indeed. However, I was heartened by the President's remarks that obviously sanctions from his point of view and the Council's point of view will begin to take effect, but as they take effect, the reference to the fact that the hope also exists for a diplomatic breakthrough. Jordan's position, I think is unique in that sense, that we still have the trust of the parties, and I hope that the trust can be put to good use. Now, if among the many hurdles and obstacles facing the Middle East situation, pressuring Jordan and breaking Jordan's will have become the ultimate objectionable [as heard] target, I think that rather a lesser target than the many other obstacles that are placed in the face of potential peacemakers. But I would like to assure you that our political will, as reflected by Jordanians in the large Jordanian family is quite determined to stand by his majesty's position in seeking a breakthrough, and as I said, I hope that the discussion, which is an open-ended agenda discussion can find that breakthrough so that hardship need not be brought to bear on many small peoples. We speak of course of the difficulties of the consumers in Europe, in the OECD countries. I'd just like to say that...[changes thought] imagine the price of oil descending from 25 to 15 dollars, and imagine Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, for example, as a hypothesis which is being selected now, pumping the shares of Iraq and Kuwait. The estimated cost at three million barrels a day of revenue incurred is something in the neighborhood of $19 to 20 billion to the OPEC members. If we talk of OECD [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development] members over a two-year period, we are talking about something like $80 billion annually. The situation of haves and haves-not in this part of the world is a very acute situation. I go through the per capita of European Community countries, OECD members, Gulf Cooperation Council members which exceed 14,000 and $15,000 and end up with a few hundred dollars when one speaks of many countries in the Arab world and indeed in the Third World as a whole. As I said, can we look at this region as a region of human beings? Can we remember that by the year 2000, 300 million people will exist between Cairo and Islamabad, 70 percent of whom are under the age of 15? Can we remind ourselves that whoever comes out on top in a military confrontation, God forbid, that suffering and extremism is going to be the prescription for the Middle East, and it may be a justification for the continued indefinite presence of foreign military intervention. Is that the worst case-scenario that we want to work toward?

[Reporter] Sir, could I hold there just one moment? The question remains, will Jordan enforce the UN sanctions?

[Hasan] Jordan is looking at ways and means of making that a practical proposition. And until we have satisfaction on that question, it is very difficult to answer that question. We have, of course, adopted the mandatory resolution and we are trying very hard indeed, which is a book-keeping exercise, and you know as you work out your own budget in the United States, how difficult that is. But Jordan, as I said, is not a country living several thousand miles away from the problem. Jordan is contiguous to the problem, and in many senses attached to it. Half our labor force is in Kuwait today.

[Reporter] [name indistinct] from ABC. In the absence of direct negotiations, direct talks even, between President Bush and President Saddam, the king, this week in particular, is in the hopefully helpful role of explaining each side's position to the other. What is it that the king can explain to President Bush about President Saddam Husayn that perhaps is not clear to Washington? Is there a case to be made that the king will try to make to President Bush that in some sense justifies or explains Saddam's position and his moves over the last few weeks?

[Hasan] Well, I do not think that there is any intention on the part of Jordan or Jordanians to justify Iraqi actions. I think that the Iraqi actions speak for themselves, and that is clearly in the context of, as I said, military intervention in Kuwait. And our position is very clear. We have to resolve this issue and preferably within an Arab context. Our contacts with many Arab leaders during this period of time has indicated a great degree of fear and concern over the future with a Middle East justifying further and further foreign military intervention.

President Saddam Husayn has been described by Senator Arlen Specter, has been described by Congressman Solarz, has been described by many whom we have met, or read, or heard from, as—quote—"dangerous and rational [as heard]". And I ask myself the question: When you are dealing with a leadership which is clearly both decisive—quote, unquote—"dangerous" in a conflict situation, and ask yourself the following two questions: What lies ahead, capitulation or escalation? How will a party which is described by those who have met him as dangerous and rational react? I just wonder whether capitulation or escalation are the only two formulae being presented for containment of this growing Middle East confrontation?

[Reporter] Is his majesty going to try in some way to elucidate the situation by explaining Saddam to President Bush in a way that President Bush will have a different perception of Saddam? Is he going then, in a sense, going to try to educate President Bush about Saddam?

[Hasan] I don't think that we would aspire to educating anyone. All we can aspire to is a bona fide role. As we have said in the Arab world: Your friend is he who is truthful with you, not he who believes you or gives you

believable things to dwell on. The whole situation—President Saddam Husayn has been effectively characterized by intermediaries, or, forgive me, by the media. And for several months, even before this attack, there were so many issues. The subject of Iraq has been a subject of great controversy and great concern for many in the world. We have had the big gun issue, we have had the chemical weapons issue. So our theories that, given the invasion of Kuwait, would surprise us all, that we have all stumbled into a situation which has rapidly escalated into a major world crisis. [sentence as heard] And I would just like to say that, in terms of communicating, obviously Jordan is the only country that is effectively talking to the Iraqi leadership. And this is why, I think, a meeting between his majesty the king and President Saddam is so important at this juncture.

[Reporter] But what is it about Saddam that President Bush needs to understand that perhaps he doesn't?

[Hasan] Well, as I said, if American envoys have described President Saddam as dangerous and rational, I think that the rational aspect of it has to be explained. We are talking about diplomacy, we are talking about dialogue, and obviously that starts with ideas and not only with words and stated actions.

[Reporter] Richard (Chesnolt?), U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT: Could you tell us please if his majesty's trip to see Saddam Husayn the day before yesterday was at his majesty's initiative or was it at the invitation of President Saddam Husayn? And secondly, another subject, could you comment on the new developments between Iraq and Iran as of this morning?

[Hasan] I think to comment on whose initiative is really wonderful for diplomatic odds [as heard], but I think that if future discussions at a high level are just going to be limited to who [words indistinct] we are not really going to make terribly much progress. So, certainly, consultations have been continuing with all parties to the conflict. And I think it's very clear that we have arrived at such a peak, such an explosive situation in the region as a whole, that we attempted to try and give diplomacy a chance. And that is fully justified. But as you know, and many of you have been with us in Amman for several days, we feel that the Jordanian position has been misunderstood. And maybe it is an opportunity also to clarify what Jordan thinks it has been trying to do in the cause of peace and stability in the region.

[Reporter] On the question of Iraq and Iran, the new developments between Iraq and....

[Hasan, interrupting] The development of course, again in the case that obvious reference to the Iraqi leadership's being rational at this time. Of course, I heard the position being characterized as a desperate act. But it seems to me that if we go on saying that everything that the Iraqi leadership is desperate, then we are almost inviting conflict as the only outcome to this stand off, this evolving tragedy. And my hope is certainly that progress can be made between Iraq and Iran. And my hope is shared, I think, by many, many Muslims all over the world. I think it is very clear that the Iranian position that we have heard through the media obviously view the invasion of Kuwait with grave concern for the stability of the region. But they also view with even greater concern the heavy military introduction of foreign forces into the region. I go back to 1956 and remind that at that time the U.K., France, and Israel, were controlling the Suez Canal. The British were in Aden at the southern part of the Red Sea. The British were still in the Gulf at that time. Today, you have a Western zone of influence in, shall we call it the southern Gulf. You have excellent relations between Western countries and navies in the northern Gulf with the movement of naval pieces through the northern Red Sea. And obviously, as far as the southern Red Sea is concerned, again we are a threat to the Bab el Mandeb emanating from the Horn of Africa situation. So, are we all going to see a situation whereby this Arabian peninsula is effectively going to come under increasingly what has been described as oil colonialism?

If we look at the world from within the region it is rather difficult to describe, but we are judged, and our whole argument today, our whole discussion today is over how the world sees us. How do we see the world? Has anyone stopped to ask? The man in the street obviously feels he is in this tremendous situation, of disparity between haves and have-nots. Over 40 regional conflicts in the world, and over 10 of them in the Arab and Muslim world. 70 percent of the refugees in the world again in this swathe. Has anyone stopped to ask why this cannot be stopped? And the only reason it can be stopped is through looking at the Middle East as a region. But preferred bilateral relations with Israel on the one side and Saudi Arabia and the Gulf on the other, increasingly so obviously with other Arab countries, particularly Egypt on the third, does not present an image of a region. Europe is a region; the Americas are a region. The commentary on the demise and breadth of Arab cooperation and Arab unity is not something to be happy about. I think, on the contrary, the possibility of dealing with sovereign states is one proposition, but dealing with the region where radical, extremist movements are going to eat away the very structure of the sovereign states, reminds me very much of the domino theory that caused so much distress in South East Asia in the wake of the Vietnam conflict.

[Reporter] Your Highness, my name is Gerry Bodlander. I am from the ASSOCIATED PRESS. You said a moment ago that Jordan is looking at ways of implementing the sanctions. That being the case, sir, when his majesty the king went to Iraq earlier this week, did he indicate that to Saddam Husayn? And now being in Washington, does he have a specific dollar figure that he plans to ask President Bush for? And also is he planning to ask perhaps for some sort of support, military support, perhaps in the wake of the possible sanctions and the violence that may ensue?

[Hasan] Well, clearly [words indistinct] that discussions between us and the United States; this has been an

ongoing issue for many, many years. But I really feel, to be quite frank with you, that the discussion at the head of state level today between the players directly involved is more over the political situation in the region and how we can contain the possibility of conflict, if there is such a possibility. If, however, we are going to live through a conflict situation, then I think hardship will be visited on us all, sanctions included. So it is not a visit at this historic moment to talk about finance or assistance. It is a visit to talk about a potential joint thinking of free men who search for a better future for the Middle East and the world as a whole.

[Reporter] [name indistinct] DER SPIEGEL. Your Highness; in case it comes to military confrontation, what are your expectations for the situation prevailing in this region?

[Hasan] Well, as you well know, tiny Jordan is surrounded by weapons of mass-destruction, conventional and non-conventional. There have been any number of studies on who possesses what. And I really tremble at the description of a forthcoming massive confrontation between neighboring armies. And given the presence of these weapons of mass-destruction, what that is going to do to vital installations, particularly in the fragile oil-producing region, and indeed if you recall those pictures of the B-52s during previous consultations [as heard] pouring tens upon tens bombs, I mean the mind boggles at what this could do to population centers. Of course, the strategists sit and talk about vital installations and taking out air force, and so forth, as though it is so much surgery. But for us, we are actually living in the region. The danger area for us is really a few kilometers. And frankly it may be very easy for servicemen, and it is known in conventional wars and even in non-conventional conflict that the losses are usually on the civilian population more than they are on the military population. For those of us who are not as prepared as the technologically advanced military machines of the turn of the 20th into the 21st century, that the losses among civilians are going to be phenomenal. The bitterness that comes out of all of this, the extremism that is going to be justified out of all of this, is going to certainly make so many of us feel, as we felt even before the crisis: that if you are not part of a major military pact, whether bilaterally, or multi-laterally—if you are not a part of a NATO or a Warsaw Pact, if you are not in a position to be protected by some outside force—then you are, in Arabic, hell's firewood. And if that is the situation that we are expected to have visited upon us, quite naturally, we have a right to speak our mind in trying to caution to the very last moment.

[Reporter] You are talking about a clash of egos in the region. Can I assume that you are just talking about egos on all sides, that includes American egos?

[Hasan] I would assume so, yes.

[Reporter] Do you think that there is any ego imbalance? Is there an ego gap? Is it more difficult on one side than the other, given what we often hear is traditional....

[Hasan, interrupting] I think that as an American you are a better judge of that than I am, given the precise polls on public opinion that we see every day. I mean, I can't assess the ego gap in the Arab and Muslim street on a daily basis because we don't have that degree of precision. But I think that the gap is between the two plains of the conflict. And what have you [sentence begins as heard] are terribly concerned with who the Iraqis, the Syrians, the Lebanese, or the Jordanians, or the Israelis for that matter are, or what the political baggage that they carry around with them is.

What they are interested in is effectively [word indistinct] which provide the industrialized economies with much needed sustenance. The last quarter of 1990, according to many estimates, would have seen recession, i.e. would have seen a rise in the price of oil to an average of $19 to $24, even if the crisis had not taken place. To have this plain [?plane] of economic worries of the world visited on this region, which after all in terms of oil production is the Gulf. I am talking from outside that region, although Jordan has always been mindful of doing everything it can to support the stability of the Gulf, we have even asked for so many years to be regarded as ancillary Gulf members. We have no ambitions in the Gulf. However, inter-regional debate was not made possible. I remember in the early 70's, going and calling for a labor compensation fund. The Egyptians, President Mubarak, repeated the same call in the early 80's. These complementarities have to evolve between manpower exporting countries and between oil-producing countries. Why can there be a human resources development program in South East Asia after a bitter war, largely funded by Japanese vision in that instance, and not a similar arrangement to look at politics where people matter in this Middle East region? Why are we always considered in terms of barrels of oil, or terrorism? Why the stereotypes of the ugly Arabs? Why can we not contain and break through these stereotypes and start talking to each other as people of the respective nationalities and of the global village to which we all claim to aspire?

[Reporter] Your Highness, you have raised a number of questions today, but do you have any answers to the crisis? In other words, which direction should it take, and should the United States pay more attention to King Husayn and less attention to President Mubarak?

[Hasan] I think that your type of question is going to offer more heat than light. And as I said from the beginning, my thankless task here, as you have me at a disadvantage with all your many questions and the barrage of positions taken that change by the second, my thankless part here is to try and say once again: Let's give peace and dialogue a chance. And I don't think there is any difference between us and any Arab country on the need for a peaceful conclusion to this potential tragedy.

There is tragedy enough in what has taken place and potential disaster in terms of confrontation and loss of life to all concerned—the nationalities in the region, the nationalities from outside the region. We have heard a lot about the possibility of a United Nations initiative, for example, from the United Nations and the continuing discussions today. Could there be a UN presence? We have spoken for such a long period of our time about the possibility of an Arab presence. In 1961, when the British entered Kuwait at that time, Jordanian forces replaced the British forces alongside other Arab forces. But there was a clearly defined political mandate, a sequence; the foreign presence was replaced by a local Arab presence. It was not a case of Arabs seen standing side by side with foreigners in defense of an Arab and Muslim country against an Arab and Muslim country. And this is where effectively, we would like to be quite clear that this heavy foreign troop presence in the Middle East, which is oil, but in the Middle East which is also Mecca, al-Madinah, and let me remind you, Jerusalem, is a very explosive equation in the middle- and long term. And this is not rhetoric or idle words. I wish that you would, as ladies and gentlemen of the press, look at the outpouring of popular feeling in so many countries from one end of the Muslim world to the other. I am talking about popular feeling and criticism of foreign military intervention. So I think that that really sums it up. Obviously we all have our different ways and our different approaches. I hope that we finally meet in some form of a consensus on the need for regional thinking. As I said, if a regional conference on security and cooperation can break down barriers in Europe, is that not so possible to consider in the time ahead, if we have time, in the Middle East?

[Reporter] James Wild, TIME magazine: You talked about the differences between the rich and the poor in the Arab world and the differences between the countries who export labor and the ones who export oil. Would your royal highness say that perhaps there should be a more equitable distribution of the oil wealth in the Middle East?

[Hasan] Well, this is not only peculiar to the Middle East. I just like to remind you that the European Community's per capita is $13,249—the first circle of Europe; the Economic Free Trade Association, EFTA, $16,251; Eastern Europe excluding the USSR, but including Turkey, Malta, and Cyprus—in Turkey, $4,247, in Czechoslovakia, $10,141. One of the first considerations in these three circles of Europe, is—clearly not so crudely as with reference to the third world, but clearly with reference to Europe—to arrive at greater social harmony and compensation, obviously, for many of the management mispractices in many countries in Europe, whose heavy investment has been envisioned by BERD, the Eastern European Development Bank, with $12 billion capital currently being established. Of course that European Investment Bank includes Arab moneys.

I was looking at the total oil revenues of the Arab countries at the previous price of about $15 dollars per barrel and estimating them at $100 billion annually. I was looking at the total debt of the Arab world, which is estimated at $160-$180 billion dollars, I don't know if you...[changes thought] I am talking about current debts, if you include or exclude military debts, and then looking at investments abroad in the OECD, which exceeds five or six hundred billion dollars. And I wonder why, when you speak about debt—and this is something...[changes thought] I know that Latin America is represented here, we have the Mexican correspondent among us, and I was just talking about Latin-American-Arab cooperation recently at a conference in Spain. I was just wondering why 10-15 percent of Arab oil revenues cannot be set aside annually to finance two funds: A sinking long-term fund to extinguish the total external debt of the Arab countries, and an investment fund to provide investment chances to the Arab non-oil countries. And to be fair, when we go back to 1980 and the Arab economic summit when Iraq was a donor country and we evolved the Arab economic development decade, Iraq came forward with $500 million at that time. And that was intended for the LDC [less developed countries] Arab countries, basically in Africa. What happened ten years later, the Gulf war cost $1 trillion—$1 trillion dollars to kill and maim over a million people. How many people will be killed and maimed by another Middle East war, and how much will it cost?

So there are two approaches effectively: conflict and armed conflict—the fulfillment of the worst possible dreams and nightmares—or effectively a rational approach whereby all means in the United Nations' terminology or whomsoever's, the presence of forcing diplomacy through other means. [sentence as heard] But let us just give peace a chance.

[Reporter] Diplomatic quarters believe that the probability of Israel taking action into her hands and by this, you are increasing the danger of the al-watan al-badil [preceding words in Arabic meaning the alternative homeland] theory is a fact. How do you see this theory?

[Hasan] Well, it is rather sad to see the ground rules in terms of negotiation with the Palestinians changing as everyone looks outward. No to negotiation with the PLO, no to the Palestine state, no to the inclusion of East Jerusalem. Clearly, those who have espoused the theory that the de-stabilizing of Jordan is an objective are forgetting the fact that the rumors of our demise have been grossly exaggerated for many, many years. And we are used to people saying the end is nigh. And after all, we are fatalists. But I would just like to ask whether the de-stabilizing of Jordan, by massive demographic movement, by military threats, by cutting off of water, by pressure tactics of this kind are going to contribute to regional stability in the long run.

Israel today is talking about new settlers from the Soviet Union, and yet at one and the same time saying that this right to settlement is not effectively an aggressive act.

The consumption levels in Israel of course of all basic resources are clearly increasing, however, given this view of demography. And as I said, as we look at the Mediterranean community, as we look at the discussion of transnational minorities, refugees, displaced persons, stateless persons, which is the discussion in Europe today, you do not differentiate between Czechs and Poles and Hungarians or Germans. You talk about people. Has not the time come to at least give ourselves a chance to evolve new concepts? Obviously, cold warriors exist on both sides of the line. Obviously strident voices call for bringing Jordan into the unenviable situation of being dictated to. Jordan will not be dictated to. We are a free country, a sovereign country, and our contribution to regional stability can be made on the basis of our offering our free and responsible thoughts and ideas. But to be told on one side by many of our friends in the world that your pragmatism is appreciated, and then when we try to be pragmatic when thought is most needed, when imagination is most needed, when we are desperately in need of new ideas now, to be told, well you are talking too much because the die is cast, I think is really irrational.

[Reporter] My name is [name indistinct], Television Mexico, Mexican Television. I would like to ask you, taking the oil market, you have spoken a lot today about this problem, what could be the effects if this crisis continues for a country like Mexico for instance? And the second question, try to explain to me, if it's possible, speaking in popular feelings, not just in political terms, which would be worse for Jordan and for this crisis, if you accept the embargo and you have economic problems and you are helped from the United States, or if you don't accept it and you are under risk of a reaction of the United States and Israel?

[Hasan] Well, I thank you for your second question. I will come back to the first question in a minute. As far as the second question is concerned, as I said, the subject of economic hardship is a question really of our very existence. We are not an oil-producing country. We are a country with limited resources. We are a country that imports all our energy requirements practically, with the exception of natural gases which we have discovered in small percentages, and alternative energy. Clearly, if energy is to be stopped without any alternative, effectively industry is going to stop. Unemployment is already high and will increase. Suffering is expected by the Jordanian Parliament and the Jordanian people, and they say effectively, we are prepared to accept that suffering. But the point is basically, what is the purpose of the embargo? Is it to invite a change in position on the part of the Iraqis? We are told continuously that the Iraqis—by the media that is—and indeed we are very well aware, that the Iraqis will not back down. We have said time and again that intimidation will not work. We are very well aware that martyrdom is very dear to Arabs and Muslims in standing on principle. And we have faced any number of threats and intimidation from the outside world, of course carefully couched in terms of diplomatic advice: Do what is good for you now. But the point comes in the life of peoples effectively, where a different role is envisaged. And what is different today is that we are unique in the sense that we are probably the only party that can talk to the other party through the conflict. And I hope in that sense that the voice of reason will receive an echo. However, how life can be made more beastly for Jordan is not a very difficult question to discuss given a tiny country of barely more than three million people and one port.

And I said the strategists will look at the map of the region and ask why not bottle it up. But on the other hand, I would like to say that sanctions and embargo notoriously have not worked in many situations in the world. And unless effectively a diplomatic option is left open, unless effectively the possibility of dialogue is left open, by all means standing on principle, it is going to be very difficult indeed to apply international criteria. The map of the Middle East may change as a result of further conflict. The stakes are obviously very high, the egos are very high. But the time has come really to understand the bigger picture that it is not the question of dollars and cents alone, that second plane of the issue to which I referred. But it is also a question of a very long baggage of history that every single one of us carries in this region.

I don't know how peace and justice can evolve, but I think that if the Middle East today is so important, that it should not only be important for negative reasons. Something good has to come of this, hopefully for the Middle East and for the world.

Mexico—I am referring to your first question—as an indebted country, could obviously benefit from new thinking related to what I have described as political economy, not only debt release, but investments. And my hope is that effectively we can generate the fund for investments effectively, intra-regionally between our respective regions. I was speaking about debt sinking in our part of the world, and I would just like to say that 15 percent of the expected 160 billion total oil revenues would yield $24 billion per annum. Two-thirds, $16 billion, could well be allocated to a debt sinking fund in this part of the world. It would immediately relieve existing pressures on indebted countries—Egypt, Iraq, Syria—and would benefit the lenders who would be asked to contribute through debt and interest-reduction mechanisms. The remaining one-third, $8 billion, could be invested on a grant basis in the development of infrastructural and social security plans and indeed on intra-regional development funds.

This creative thinking exists, but who is interested in creative thinking at this time? What happens today, tomorrow, next week, in ten days, whether it is a formula of destruction and confrontation or whether it is the beginning of a rational process is very much in the balance. But creativity does exist. I hope that we will be given a chance to let it work.

[Reporter] President Husayn has already tabled a proposal. To the best of your knowledge, is that proposal reiterated in the letter that Jordan Television reported his majesty is carrying to Washington, or does it further that proposal, as far as you know?

[Hasan] I am really not in a position to characterize further than what I have already said, that I hope—as President Bush has reiterated—that his communication with King Husayn, with his majesty the king, was on an open agenda. And I think that we have to leave them to get on with that open agenda and to wish them well in that endeavor, on behalf of us all.

Thank you all very much.

King Husayn Receives Indian Foreign Minister

JN1908190090 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Indian Foreign Minister Kumar Inder Gujral at al-Nadwa Palace at noon today. They talked about relations between the two friendly countries and regional developments. Present at the meeting was Crown Prince Hasan.

Al-Asad Chairs NPF Meeting To Discuss Crisis

JN1908180790 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] The National Progressive Front [NPF] Central Command held a meeting at 1830 today chaired by President Hafiz al-Asad. The meeting reviewed the developments that have taken place since the Central Command's last meeting on 9 August.

The president briefed the Central Command on the proceedings of the extraordinary Arab summit in Cairo, the discussions that took place there, and the president's call during the summit to remove the reasons behind the serious situation in the Gulf resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait so that these reasons, which paved the way for the presence of foreign troops in the Gulf, can be eliminated. He also briefed the Central Command on the resolution issued by the summit.

In addition, the president briefed the Central Command on the contacts his excellency had with a number of fraternal Arab countries and other friendly countries.

The Central Command expressed concern over the situation resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the threats it brought against Iraq and the Arab region as a whole. It stressed that the implementation of the extraordinary Cairo summit's resolution is the correct way to resolve the critical situation and spare Iraq and the Arab region imminent danger.

The Central Command expressed satisfaction with, and appreciation for the Arab position taken by Syria, and highly praised the distinguished efforts the president made and is still making to check the threats facing the Arab homeland and to give Arab action and Arab decision a role to resolve the crisis.

Al-Asad, Yemen's Salih Discuss Gulf Over Phone

JN1708182890 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih this afternoon. They discussed the situation in the Gulf.

Khaddam on Talks With Rafsanjani, Gulf Crisis

JN1708181090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and the accompanying delegation returned to Damascus today following a two- day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, during which Khaddam conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In a predeparture statement, Khaddam pointed out that his visit to Tehran came within the framework of consultations and coordination between the two countries. He said: We have held talks with the brother leaders of the Iranian Islamic Revolution, chiefly President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, on all issues of mutual interest, the foremost being the exploding situation in the Gulf. We have jointly evaluated these conditions and reached a common understanding on their dangers, their destructive consequences on the region, and their negative effects on the interests of both countries. Our viewpoints were identical on the various issues.

Khaddam added: During these talks, we stressed that Iraqi troops must withdraw from Kuwait because resorting to force in order to solve disputes with neighboring countries will only gravely harm these countries and their interests and future. He expressed his deep appreciation of the outcome of this visit, which affirmed that the two countires have common strategic lines according to which they act. He added: We will continue consultations and cooperation because the issue is very sensitive and critical and concerns both countries.

For his part, Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati stressed the importance of the visit Khaddam and his delegation paid to Tehran in light of the recent developments in the region. He described the outcome of this visit as very successful and pointed out that contacts between the two countries will continue more than ever before. He stressed the profound Syrian-Iranian relationship, which he said will witness noticeable future development. He added that continued comprehensive cooperation between the two countries is considered one of the factors for establishing a balanced situation in the region.

This morning at his place of residence in Tehran, Khaddam met with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati in the presence of Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, Iranian assistant foreign minister; the Syrian ambassador in Tehran; and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

The vice president and his delegation were seen off by Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati; a number of Iranian officials at the presidential office and the Foreign Ministry; Ahmad al-Hasan, Syrian ambassador in Tehran; and Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, the Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

PRC Delegation Participates in Economic Talks

Confers With Planning Minister

JN1808170790 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Damascus, 18 August (SANA)—Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs, met here today with Mr. Li Lanqing, PRC vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade, and the accompanying delegation in the presence of the Chinese charge d'affaires in Damascus.

The two delegations reviewed trade and economic relations between the two friendly countries and the development of technical and economic cooperation between the two, concentrating on irrigation, agriculture, and the textile industry.

Both the Syrian and Chinese delegations expressed a mutual desire to bolster relations of economic cooperation and for Syria to benefit from the PRC's experience in developing irrigation and agriculture to achieve food security.

Meets With Prime Minister

JN1908142090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] At 1200 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Li Lanqing, PRC vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Dr. Sabah Bagjaji, minister of state for planning affairs; Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Subay'i, assistant planning minister; and the Chinese charge d'affaires in Damascus. The Chinese delegation conveyed greetings from Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng to Mr. al-Zu'bi, who in turn sent greetings to the Chinese prime minister through the guest. The talks dealt with existing cooperation projects in the various economic fields and with prospects for future cooperation between the two countries.

The prime minister was briefed on the results of Mr. Li Lanqing's talks in Damascus. He stressed the importance of these talks and the promotion of Syrian-Chinese cooperation in all aspects. The talks also dealt with a number of agreements and proposals to build up bilateral relations from the existing friendship between Syria and the PRC.

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives in Damascus

JN2008082890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, arrived in Damascus this morning on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus.

Muslim Brotherhood Denounces Foreign Presence

JN1808195190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Aug 90 pp 1, 15

[Text] Amman-AL-DUSTUR—A statement by the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria denounces the military presence of foreign forces in the Gulf and demands their withdrawal no matter the cost.

The statement—a copy of which was received by AL-DUSTUR—condemns the positions of some Arab regimes identical to the U.S. position. These positions, says the statement, do not reflect the true feelings of the conquered people in those countries.

The statement stresses that the United States is using the Gulf crisis in an attempt to tighten its control in the region. It seeks to deal a blow to Iraq's growing military power, protect U.S. interests in the region, and especially ensure the continued influx of oil at extremely cheap prices. The aim is also to enable the Zionist entity to expand at the expense of Jordan—which is viewed as an alternative country for the Palestinians—and accommodate new immigrant Jews in the occupied West Bank. Moreover, the United States seeks to divide the Arab ranks and deepen Arab differences so that it can maintain its full control on the region. The stationing of U.S. forces in the region is designed to ensure the fulfillment of these objectives.

The statement calls on Arab and Islamic governments to mobilize their people to perform the duty of jihad in defense of every Arab and Islamic country that is subjected to foreign invasion.

Communist Party Denounces Iraqi 'Adventure'

JN1908172390 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Damascus, 19 Aug (SANA)—The Syrian Communist Party has expressed great concern over the developments resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the intensive buildup of U.S. and NATO forces and fleets in the region.

In a statement issued after a recent meeting of the Central Committee, the Syrian Communist Party said: The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait contradicts the Arab League Charter, UN Charter, and international laws. It also inflicts heavy damage on Arab solidarity and the Arab nation's interests and struggle for the sake of the Palestinian people's rights and their intifadah. It also weakens the struggle against Jewish immigration.

The statement added: The Iraqi regime's adventure is a new episode in its series of previous adventures, such as launching a war against the Iranian revolution and against its own people and using chemical weapons against them, its conspiracy against Syria, and the oppression of nationalist and progressive forces in Iraq.

The Syrian Communist Party's statement explained that imperialism and its allies have taken advantage of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait to strengthen their presence in the Gulf and their hegemony on the region and its people.

Paper Says Iraq Should Cancel Kuwait Annexation

JN1708195190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Press review]

[Text] In its commentary today, AL-THAWRAH discusses the Gulf crisis and the dangers of Iraq's falsehoods concerning a settlement of this crisis. Under the headline "An Idea and a Lesson," the newspaper says: The most serious aspect of these falsehoods is that some people had deluded themselves into thinking that they can use them to conceal their deception and stall for time—something that can never hold before facts. They are also

resorting to these falsehoods in a bid to preoccupy others with unsubstantial issues in the crisis resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and divert attention away from the dangers and their inherent unpredictable threats. Even the simplest of these threats is destructive to the region in general and to Iraq in particular.

AL-THAWRAH stresses the need to defuse the explosive situation by canceling the acts that led to the military congestion; namely, by pulling the Iraqi forces out of Kuwait and restoring sovereignty and legitimacy to this country. Only in this way, says the paper, can stability and calm return to the region. Anything out of harmony with this only means an escape from the inevitable fact, which is now taking the shape of a barrel of explosives that will first burn those who began to play with it.

We should learn a lesson from the wasting of time. Those who are now crying about the international buildup and the future of the region are the same ones who wasted the opportunity to convene an emergency Arab summit at the early stage of the invasion.

Under the headline "The Crisis Is Resolved by Removing Its Causes," AL-THAWRAH says in its second commentary: The Gulf crisis is open to all extremely dangerous possibilities. Perhaps the most dangerous of these is the eruption of a war that harms Iraq in the first place. This means double loss—for Iraq and the Arab nation. Iraq's capabilities are a pan-Arab property which the nation desperately needs in order to counter the primary danger—the colonialist Zionist project.

The paper adds: The Arab nation does not need a new crisis to divide it and deplete its resources and potential. After all, this will only serve to weaken the nation and further strengthen its enemy, which is lying in wait to embark on its potential aggression with a view to establishing greater Israel, which will have a large-scale strategic role and unlimited ambitions in Arab waters, lands, and resources. The Gulf crisis, undoubtedly, provides the Zionist enemy with innumerable services, perhaps the most serious of which being the diversion of all Arab and international attention away from the Arab-Zionist conflict, which is a struggle over existence, over to a territorial dispute in the Gulf.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that in light of this, those who started the crisis should remove its causes. The starting point, it says, is the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the cancelation of the decision to annex it by force.

Iraq Urged To Withdraw, Stop Intervention

JN1808142590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, while the Western naval buildup on Gulf waters is escalating, and more forces are flowing into the region, the USSR, through President Gorbachev, has announced that it strongly condemns the Iraqi invasion. Gorbachev also stressed that the whole world rejects the invasion of Kuwait and the abolition of this Arab country's sovereignty and that they constitute a flagrant violation of the most basic principles and charters. Gorbachev warned that the USSR is thinking of contributing to an international effort to bring things back to normal, especially since the Iraqi invasion was carried out with Soviet weapons, contrary to concluded agreements. These weapons were given to Iraq to defend itself and not to carry out aggression on a UN member state and annex it by force. Gorbachev's tone was characterized by shock and bitterness, and Western circles are not concealing their serious concern about the foreign nationals in Iraq and Kuwait and about their being turned into real hostages. Therefore, instead of calming the situation through tangible steps and measures that would prove that it respects the will of the international community, the Baghdad government adds fuel to the fire and provides Westerners with further pretexts to intervene militarily in the region. No one can ignore the current and future dangers of Western intervention on Iraq and the other Gulf states. It is possible to contain this intervention now and to prevent its expansion through Iraq's clear and open decision to withdraw from Kuwait and to restore this Arab country's sovereignty, but it will be difficult to do it when the intervention begins. In fact, the Gulf states' sovereignty over their oil resources and their ability to make national decisions that would serve their interests and those of the Arab nation will be lost. Consequently, the entire region will regress scores of years and all its past achievements will evaporate.

In light of this, Iraq's reckless step to invade and annex Kuwait has inflicted and will inflict future serious harm on the Arabs and their major issues. Iraq wasted 10 years to find out now that its war against Iran was a grave and hideous mistake, taking into consideration that some Arab brothers from the very beginning warned it against indulging in an absurd, meaningless war diverting attention from the true danger posed by Israel and Zionism. The war bill was horrible: 1 million people were killed on the Iraqi and Iranian sides, material and economic losses were incurred amounting to hundreds of billions of dollars, and several economic and social problems were created.

The Arab brothers today too warn Iraq against continuing its reckless adventure against Kuwait. They continually call on Iraq to end this adventure, to abide by reason and wisdom, and to return to the spirit of Arab relations—a spirit that rejects the use of force and coercion in settling differences and calls for dialogue and brotherhood. Iraq's reckless step in occupying and annexing Kuwait torpedoes every Arab effort to bolster brotherhood, solidarity, and the one family. Arabs cannot stand idle before the flagrant aggression against an Arab League member state which enjoys the same right and duties of the others and which has never failed

to help Iraq in particular. If the Arabs call on the international community to translate its commitments toward the just causes in the region into tangible measures, then they cannot disavow their commitments toward the international community, which views the Iraqi invasion as an overt threat to principles and charters and a disturbance of the region's stability, security, and safety. Based on this, if Iraq corrects the mistake before it is too late and withdraws from Kuwait, returning things to normal in this Arab country, not only will Iraq and its people be served but also the Arab nation, which is threatened by Zionist dangers and which needs no fresh dangers brought about by the Iraqi invasion.

Paper Blames Iraq for Foreign Presence in Gulf

JN1908144690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Damascus, 19 Aug (SANA)—The newspaper AL-BA'TH blames Iraq for the foreign military presence on Arab territory and for turning the entire world against the Arabs.

In an article by the political editor, the paper says: Saddam's new move has given the foreigner a new pretext to concentrate his military presence, especially following the new reckless step to detain foreign nationals and scatter them all over Iraq in the most sensitive areas.

The paper refutes Iraq's motives behind the invasion of Kuwait and says: What the Iraqi regime has done under the pretext of money and for the sake of money has given the international community all kinds of excuses and reasons to regard it as a flagrant, aggressive act that must be confronted and ended worldwide no matter how costly that may be.

AL-BA'TH stresses that Iraq invaded Kuwait without learning from past experiences and tragedies, foremost the war against Iran, and without being deterred by the consequences that might befall all Arabs.

The paper notes that the invasion caused the Iraqi regime to lose its balance and to fumble about, away from the real solution which lies in admitting the mistake, going back, withdrawing forces from Kuwait, and restoring the situation that existed prior to 1 August 1990.

The paper also notes how Westerners are making fun of the attitudes of Arabs toward each other and the need to protect them from one another and from their internecine wars and crazy adventures.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The voice of reason from Damascus has never ceased to call for what is correct. Therefore, leader al-Asad sought to adopt an Arab decision and formulate an Arab presence during this serious crisis because Syria realizes that Arabs, Arabs alone, are capable of assuming responsibility and making a decision to tackle, resolve, and end the abnormal situation in the Gulf and restore normalcy regardless of any circumstances.

Press Hopes Iraq Will Heed 'Voice of Reason'

JN1908195690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Aug 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "How Can the Arabs Face the Dangers of the New Recklessness," AL-BA'TH asserts in its commentary today that there is no longer disagreement that what happened in the Arab Gulf invokes anxiety and fear—even terror—of what could happen in the end, especially if the escalation continues and Iraq does not abide by Arab and international resolutions that have accentuated the need to eliminate the causes and results of this crisis. This clearly entails withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, return of the legitimate government to the fraternal country, and dealing with the situation by peaceful means and within the context of the Arab family in particular.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: If the Iraqi regime does not heed these demands and continues the process of escalation, it would, in this way, have rendered a great service to the enemies of the nation, particularly Israel.

AL-BA'TH explains that foiling this new imperialist scheme brooks no hesitation or confused reactions. All that is required is wisdom and astuteness, and, above all, an absolute belief in the unity of the Arab nation and its independence and decisionmaking faculty at the darkest moments and most difficult circumstances.

In one of its commentaries, AL-THAWRAH also asserts that despite the great apprehension and fears of a big explosion that might not leave anything behind, especially within Iraq itself, there is still some hope that the Arab situation will find a way out of the tunnel which the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has got it into. This hope is that Iraq will heed the voice of reason and take the first and essential step to eliminate the causes of tension and cool off the boiling state of affairs by undoing what it has done according to the law of the jungle: occupying an Arab country under the cover of slogans no longer convincing to anyone. Add to this that these slogans cannot hold ground when Iraq surprisingly recants the slogans that, until recently, were behind the involvement in a fierce war through which Arabs, particularly Iraq, harvested only casualties.

AL-THAWRAH explains that it is truly painful for the Arab nation to be involved in a crisis whose horizons contain only darkness and whose unpredictable results are manifested in dangers, the most regrettable of which will be destructive to the nation's existence and future.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: It is truly painful that the enemies of the nation should wager on Iraq's recalcitrance to manage to utilize the Iraqi blunder and keep the Arab nation prey to fragmentation and division, and revolving in a vicious circle of inaction as regards an issue that affects its existence and destiny.

Commentary Assails Iraqi Detention of Foreigners

JN2008083290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 Aug 90

[From the press peview]

[Text] Under the headline "The Implementation of the Cairo Summit Resolution Will Secure the Tackling of the Deteriorating Situation," AL-BA'TH says: No one questions the fact that the Arab region is now experiencing the most dangerous state of affairs in its contemporary history, and if its causes are not tackled with wisdom and maturity this state of affairs may lead to a destructive explosion that will hurl the Arab nation into an unfathomable abyss and inflict on it the heaviest material and moral damages.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the ensuing provocative measures represented in holding foreign nationals in Kuwait and Iraq to counter any military operation constitute a blatant violation of all Arab and international norms, conventions, and agreements. This invasion has also given foreign countries the justification to dispatch military forces to the Gulf—forces which constitute the largest arsenal ever seen in the region. The presence of this arsenal will sooner or later lead to a confrontation whose perils will not be restricted to Iraq and the Arab Gulf, but whose negative impacts will reflect also on the whole world.

AL-BA'TH adds: The emergency Arab summit which was held in Cairo formulated a clear, practical concept on how to tackle the causes and consequences of the crisis within the context of a joint Arab action in accordance with the Arab League Charter and within the framework of international law.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Through the exceptional efforts it exerts under President Hafiz al-Asad to deal with the aggravated state of affairs, Syria proceeds from its firm conviction that joint Arab action is the one that is capable of protecting the Arab nation from the perils engulfing it, and that implementation of the resolution adopted by the Cairo emergency Arab summit is the correct way to begin treating the deteriorating state of affairs and for warding off the impending perils that threaten Iraq and the Arab region.

Commenting on the same subject within the "Behind the News" column TISHRIN says: The discussions that took place during the emergency summit revealed that it was Iraq which compelled the Gulf states to request the U.S. presence during the Iraq-Iran war. Iraq is now giving the U.S. Administration a new excuse to have a presence in the region through its invasion of Kuwait and through a threat to pursue its policy of aggression which does not stop at a certain point.

TISHRIN concludes: If there is an eagerness to remove the U.S. presence from the Gulf, then let us eliminate the causes which brought about such a result and let Iraq go back on its invasion which has been the basic cause of the problem. This is a popular Arab demand throughout the homeland to safeguard the Arab nation, specifically the Iraqi people.

Bangladesh

Military Delegation Leaves for Saudi Arabia

BK1708171190 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] A two-member Bangladesh military delegation left Dhaka today for Riyadh to work out the details of the troops that will be sent to Saudi Arabia to defend the kingdom. The team comprises Major General M.A. Wahid and Lieutenant Colonel Abdul Wahid. Bangladesh decided to send a military contingent to join multinational forces in Saudi Arabia in response to request by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan has said Bangladeshis continue to flee from Kuwait and Iraq to Amman on their way back home. So far, 60 Bangladeshis have taken shelter in camps opened by the Jordanian Government. Necessary arrangements have already been made for the repatriation of the [word indistinct]. He told newsmen in Dhaka today the government has received a partial list of 6,400 Bangladeshis who have crossed into Saudi Arabia from Kuwait.

Diplomats in Iraq To Visit Kuwait Colleagues

BK1908095490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0936 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 19 (AFP)—Iraq has agreed to grant consular access to Bangladeshi diplomats in Baghdad to visit their collegues in Kuwait, diplomatic sources said here Sunday.

The Bangladesh embassy in Baghdad is making the necessary arrangments for the visit, the sources said. Bangladesh had a five-man embassy in Kuwait under ambassador K.M. Shihabuddin at the time of the August 2 iraqi invasion. Since then Dhaka has lost direct contact with the embassy.

Bangladesh has condemned the Iraqi aggression and backed United Nations, Arab League and Organisation of Islamic Conference resolutions for the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops and restoration of independence and sovereignty to the oil-rich emirate. Predominantly moslem Bangladesh last week agreed to send a token military force to the Gulf in response to a request to Islamic nations for help from Saudi Arabia's King Fahd.

Diplomatic sources said Sunday the Bangladesh contingent could include some 200 to 500 troops.

Iraqi Ambassador Zuhayr Hammad al-Omar was summoned to foreign office here Thursday for the second time in a week to be told of Dhaka's concern on the condition of Bangladeshi nationals who were in Kuwait at the time of Iraqi invasion. Officials said the ambassador was told of the "increasing hardship" they were facing in Kuwait. Ambassador Zuhair reportedly assured Bangladesh Government of the "full safety and security" of Bangladeshis in Iraq and Kuwait.

Further on Visit To Kuwait

BK1908155490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1538 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Dhaka, Aug 19 (AFP)—A Bangladeshi diplomat in Baghdad is on his way to Kuwait after Iraqi authorities said they would allow him to visit his colleagues stranded in Kuwait, an official spokesman here said Sunday. Abul Ahsan told reporters that Counsellor Fazlur Rahman left Baghdad early Sunday by road to "communicate" directly with the five-man Bangladesh embassy in Kuwait and to assess their condition after Iraq's August 2 invasion.

Since the invasion and subsequent annexation of Kuwait by Iraq, Dhaka has lost direct contact with its embassy. Mr. Ahsan, who is also Bangladesh's foreign secretary, said Iraqi authorities had also allowed a Bangladeshi diplomat and an official of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, both based in Baghdad, to visit Jordan. There, they are to visit Bangladeshi nationals fleeing Kuwait and arrange their return home.

Embassy Counsellor Altaf Ali Khan and Biman Area Manager Harunur Rashid are to fly to Amman Monday to set up a liason and repatriation there, with the help of the local honorary consul-general for Bangladesh, Kheir Maqbul. The spokesman said Biman was arranging special flights to repatriate more than 6,000 of the Bangladeshi workers in Kuwait and Iraq who have crossed to Saudi Arabia and Jordan and are sheltering in camps along with other escaped foreigners.

If everything goes well, the repatriation would start in two to three days, officials here said. However, Mr. Ahsan said the government was still awaiting Iraqi clearance for Bangladeshi diplomats in Baghdad to visit 443 Bangladeshis arrested by Iraqi troops in Kuwait after their invasion. The Bangladeshis were working as civilian employees in different Kuwaiti defence installations, officials said earlier. [passage omitted]

Austerity Measures Imposed in Light of Crisis

BK1808041190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1811 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 17 (AFP)—Many petrol stations were shut here Friday as Bangladesh started its austerity drive amid fears of an oil shortage resulting from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Officials said the drive was undertaken because of fears of an energy crisis if the gulf problem escalated.

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad announced Tuesday a series of austerity measures, including an "oil holiday" on Fridays, to minimise the effects of the crisis following the August 2 invasion.

On Fridays lights on city streets must be turned off after 10:00 P.M. (1600 GMT), and shops have to close at 8:00 P.M. (1400 GMT).

India

Singh Wants Iraqi Troops Withdrawn From Kuwait

Addresses National Front Meeting

BK1708141890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] The prime minister said India wants the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces form Kuwait as it is against the use of violence to settle international disputes. Addressing the National Front Parliamentary party meeting in New Delhi today, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh said New Delhi will stand by its commitment to the UN sanctions against Iraq.

Briefing reporters, a party spokesman said the prime minister dwelt on the Gulf scene in detail and said India is to be tactful in conveying its views because of the complex situation in the region. Referring to the safety of Indians in Kuwait, he said the government is in constant touch with Iraqi authorities. Plans have been made for chartering special planes and ships to evacuate Indians in distress as soon as (?travel securities) are restored.

Referring to the rising international oil prices, the prime minister said if the trend continues it will cause serious trouble. He said the government is considering a proposal to ban the use of official vehicles once a week as part of the petroleum conservation drive.

The prime minister also touched upon the Indo-Pak ties and Sri Lanka. Mr. V.P. Singh pledged that the government will not deviate from the National Front election manifesto and will implement all the poll promises by the end of the year.

Opposes Military Solution

BK1808125490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] India is opposed to any unilateral armed action in the Gulf. Stating this the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, said India is also against a military solution to any international conflict. Stressing that the situation in the Gulf is causing great anxiety, Mr. Singh said armed action is not within the UN Charter. The prime minister was speaking to the members of the Indian Association of Foreign Affairs correspondents in New Delhi today.

Answering a question about the Iraqi annexation of Kuwait, Mr. Singh said India is opposed to the use of force anywhere. He felt that the United Nations should be the proper forum for a political settlement of the issue.

Highlighting the serious economic repercussion for India in the wake of a hike in oil prices, the prime minister pointed out that a one dollar increase in the price of crude will cost of the country 400 crore rupees in foreign exchange.

Answering a question, the prime minister described as incorrect a report that India is planning to send its troops as part of the UN peacekeeping force in the Gulf.

Answering a question on External Affairs Minister Mr. I.K. Gujral's visit to Moscow, Washington, and Gulf countries, the prime minister denied that India is trying to mediate in the Gulf. He said the government wants to ensure the return of Indians desiring to leave the Gulf countries and explore alternative source of supply of crude oil if Iraq's blockade continues.

Gujral To Visit Kuwait, 'Likely' To Meet Saddam

BK2008080590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, is going to Kuwait from Baghdad today to get first-hand knowledge about the problems of the Indian community there. Yesterday, Mr. Gujral met the Iraqi foreign minister, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, and other officials of the Iraqi Government. He discussed every aspect of the problems of the Indians in Iraq and Kuwait. Mr. Gujral suggested some measures for the safety and security of the Indians, including supply of food and other essential items and also about their possible evacuation. Indian Ambassador in Baghdad, Mr. K.N. Bakshi, told our Gulf correspondent Avinash Goel on the phone that the response of the Iraqi Government is awaited. Mr. Gujral is also likely to meet President Saddam Husayn in Baghdad.

The 14-member Air India crew stranded in Kuwait since Iraqi occupation arrived in Baghdad yesterday on their way back home. The crew members are expected to fly to the Jordanian capital Amman today where they will travel to Bombay.

Ambassador to Kuwait Details Living Conditions

BK1808161890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] The official spokesman in New Delhi said that according to information received from our ambassador in Kuwait today, electricity, water, and emergency medical facilities in hospitals are available there. Food items are generally available, but shortage of certain commodities has been reported.

Minister on Evacuation of Indians From Mideast

BK1708175090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Harikishore Singh, told the Lok Sabha today that the government is making its best efforts to evacuate Indian nationals who are stranded or are in distress in Kuwait. Making a statement in the house, he said the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, who will be arriving in Baghdad tonight or tomorrow morning, will pursue with the Iraqi authorities the safety and security of Indians and the evacuation of the distressed persons.

The minister informed the house that latest reports indicate that our community in Kuwait is generally safe and sound. He said there are reports that about 500 Indians have crossed over from Kuwait to Saudi Arabia. He said Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan, who is proceeding to Saudi Arabia from Jordan today, will discuss with the authorities there the question of their evacuation.

Spokesman Says All 10,000 Indians in Iraq Safe

BK1908162090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that all the Indians in Iraq numbering about 10,000 are safe. In a statement, the spokesman also said that 1,200 Indian nationals had crossed into Saudi Arabia from Kuwait until yesterday. The Saudi authorities have been sympathetic at the check post in facilitating their entry. He said teams of our embassy officials from Riyadh reached the check post to help the Indians returning home. He said inquiries with a large number of Indian nationals from Kerala and Andhra Pradesh in the peripheral areas of Kuwait and who are now in Riyadh have confirmed that there are no reports of any harassment at the hands of the Iraqi forces. The Indians, in fact, had received special and friendly consideration as compared to those from some other Asian countries. Many of them have been able to bring their valuables, including VCRs and TVs, and in some cases their cars. The spokesman said those reaching Riyadh through desert routes have been helped by the Bedouins in the area who have been providing escort services for a small charge.

In Kuwait, the Indian Community association is also helping the Indian nationals to overcome the present difficulties. It is providing food free of cost to 6,000 Indians.

Congress-I Wants Nonaligned Initiative on Gulf

BK1808161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] The Congress-I has urged the government to mobilize the opinion of the Nonaligned nations to help resolve the Gulf crisis. In a statement issued in New Delhi, the party general secretary, Mr. Jaffer Sharif, said the moves of the U.S. and its allies will only aggravate the crisis and plunge the whole world into a catastrophe.

First Gulf Crude Oil Arrives Since Crisis

BK1708123290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Oil tankers carrying about 3.5 lakh [350,000] tons of crude from Iran and Dubayy have reached Indian ports. According to shipping sources in Cochin, this is the first shipment of crude oil to arrive in the country from the Gulf since the crisis started.

Iranian Crude Arrives

BK1908162490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Another oil tanker of the Shipping Corporation of India with 40,000 tons of Iranian crude arrived at Cochin port today. This is the second vessel bringing crude oil to Cochin from the Gulf after the crisis. According to shipping sources in Cochin, after the first week of September over seven lakh tons of crude oil in 10 oil tankers is scheduled to reach various Indian ports. Another tanker with 55,000 tons of Saudi Arabian crude oil will arrive at Bombay port on Tuesday [21 August].

Envoy to Venezuela Asks for 14,000 Barrels Daily

BK2008012690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1938 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Caracas, Aug 19 (AFP)—India has asked Venezuela to supply 14,000 barrels of oil a day for processing in its refineries pinched by the gulf crisis, government officials said Sunday. Indian Ambassador to Venezuela Gurcharan Singh made the request, equivalent to more than 2,000 tonnes a day.

India imports an annual 7.9 million tonnes of oil from Iraq and Kuwait. But as a result of the U.N. economic blockade imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, India will have a deficit of 1.7 million tonnes for August and September, officials said. Venezuela has said it was prepared to increase its oil production by 500,000 barrels a day for export to the United States.

Minister on Efforts To Buy Gulf States Oil

BK2008031590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Bahrain has agreed to sell additional quantities of petroleum products to India and there are positive indications from Saudi Arabia for stepping up its oil sale. This was revealed by the civil aviation and energy minister, Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan, who is now in Bahrain. Mr. Khan said official delegations from India will soon visit these countries to finalize agreements. The Saudi petroleum minister, Mr. Hisham al-Nazir, told Mr. Khan in Jeddah that Saudia Arabia would view India's needs positively. During his visit to the United Arab Emirates today, Mr. Khan will request the authorities for supply of additional quantities of petroleum products.

Iran

POW Release Continues; Welcomed by Citizens

Headquarters Issues Communique

LD1608174290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] On the threshold of the arrival of the first group of beloved POW's [azadegan] in the Islamic homeland, the

headquarters in charge of the affairs of the relased POW's issued its Communique No. 1.

The said statement says in part: greetings of God to interpreters of the verses on patience and selflessness and to the best examples of piety. The names of azadegan [literally means free-spirited people, but the term is now used for POWs] will definitely spread the spirit of freedom. It is obvious that their epoc making efforts will occupy golden pages of history. Their bravery will not only impress the present generations but the coming generations as well.

In view of the new situation, brought about by Iraq's acceptance of the clauses of Resolution 598, and in view of the fact that the POW's are to be released shortly, the headquarters in charge of the affairs of the POW's hereby announces that it is prepared to welcome these dear ones.

In another part of the statement the said headquarters, while inviting the martyr-nurturing and ever-on-the-scene ummah to hold welcoming ceremonies as magnificently as possible, draws the attention of the heroic people of our country to the following points:

All the valued families of the POW's are requested to strictly refrain from going to the border regions. That is necessary to facilitate the transfer of their loved ones.

All respected families of the POW's and the martyr-nurturing ummah are informed that once the names of POW's are received, headquarters will inform the public of those names through mass media.

All the respected Friday prayer leaders are requested, while maintaining the necessary coordination with officials at towns and villages, to take necessary action in mobilization of popular resources to that end.

Welcome Preparations

LD1708085190

[Editorial report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 0630 GMT on 17 August broadcast a 2-hour program entitled, "Welcoming the Loved Ones." The program celebrates the release of the Iranian prisoners of war.

The program consists songs and poetry praising the Iranian nation for its steadfastness and tolerance. The announcer gives phone numbers for listeners to call and express their opinions on the "imminent" release of the Iranian POWs. A correspondent interviews people in Tehran to ask them about their feelings on the release. Telephone callers tell about their missing relatives and correspondents report by telephone from Khosravi and Qasr-e Shirin to report on the status of medical teams set up near the border to receive the POWs.

Government To Aid in Employment

LD1708113290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Those [returning] POW's who were employed in workshops, organizations, or adminstrative offices will return to their work after entering the country. The deputy for employment at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, announcing this news added: For those POW's who were unemployed, employment will be created for them through training programs arranged by technical and professional centers, and bank loans drawn from self-employment scheme allocations. Priority will also be given to the POW's in employment schemes which are implemented in workshops, factories, and administrative departments.

IRNA Reports on Homecoming

LD1708161390 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Qasr-e Shirin (Bakhtaran Prov.), Aug. 17, IRNA—The first batch of homecoming Iranian POW's had an emotional entry into this border city this afternoon, following the acceptance of the 1975 accord by Iraq's Saddam Husayn.

Interior Minister 'Abdollah Nuri flanked by Vice-Presidents Hasan Habibi and Hamid Mirzadeh and a large number of civil and military officials including the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Hasan Firuzabadi welcomed the POW's to their Islamic homeland.

People anxious to catch a glimpse of their dear and near ones thronged the border post of Khosrawi and filled up the streets of Qasr-e Shirin since early morning. The scene was emotional beyond imagination, with tears of joy rolling down the cheeks of both the freed POW's and their fellow countrymen. Combatants and local people showered the homecoming heroes with flowers and cries of joy.

In a ceremony at the entrance of the war-devastated city of Qasr-e Shirin, a military band welcomed the POW's with the national anthem. The welcoming ceremony had to be delayed for some time due to the heavy rush of people anxious to greet their freed brethren. A Revolutionary Guard stationed in the area told IRNA that he counted 1,000 Iranian POW's who were repatriated by Iraq today.

More Iranian POWs Released

LD1808145790 Tehran IRNA in English 1358 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Qasr-e Shirin, Aug 18, IRNA—The second batch of 1,000 Iranian POW's stepped on home soil, three hours after the Iraqi officials were given charge of the first batch of Iraqi POW's at the border point of Khosravi today. Of the 1,000 Iraqi POW's taken to the border for repatriation, four sought asylum with the Islamic

Republic through officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) which is supervising the exchange.

Since Friday 2,000 Iranian POW's and 996 Iraqi POW's have been swapped following Iraq's acceptance of Iran's condition for peace. Iranian officials have informed the ICRC that they are ready to receive more homecoming POW's. Earlier today a group of people gathered in front of the ICRC office in Tehran, calling on the body to increase the number of POW's being exchanged.

Red Cross Unable To Verify

AU1708205390 Paris AFP in English 2027 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Geneva, Aug 17 (AFP)—The International Committee of the Red Cross said here Friday evening that it had been unable to verify on the spot that Iran had returned 1,000 Iraqi prisoners-of-war to Iraq.

A committee spokesman said that the organization's delegates in Baghdad and Teheran, who went to the border between the two countries on Friday to observe the prisoner transfer, did not see the 1,000 Iraqi prisoners released according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The ministry had announced the release Friday morning. But the committee did not rule out the possibility that the release had taken place at some other place along the border.

1,000 Iraqi POWs to ICRC

LD1808084690 Tehran IRNA in English 0801 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Qasr-e Shirin, Bakhtaran Prov., Aug. 18, IRNA—Some 1,000 Iraqi prisoners of war, the first batch being released by Iran, were handed over to the officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the western border point of Khosrawi Saturday morning.

The group, being freed in response to the Iraqi release on Friday of the first batch of 1,000 Iranian POW's, were examined by ICRC medical teams at camps set up in Khosrawi area for this purpose. The paper work and the necessary documents for the release of the POW's have been completed by the ICRC.

The United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) supervising reinforcement of the ceasefire between Iran and Iraq, also supervised the handing over of the Iraqi POW's to the ICRC officials.

The Iraqi POW's seemed very happy and full of joy during the ceremony which marked the end of their long separation from their loved ones and bid a warm farewell to the Iranian forces present here.

The Iraqi POW's who had been transferred to the western border region on Friday, spent the night in the provincial capital of Bakhtaran before being sent home.

The touching departure scene, when the Iraqi POW's embraced the Iranians and bid them goodbye, brought tears to the eyes of both Iranian and foreign observers.

Red Crescent Urges Release of 5,000

LD1808153490 Tehran IRNA in English 1438 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA—Head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society Seifollah Vahid Dastgerdi [name as received] today called for the release of 5,000 Iranian POWs each day. Dastgerdi in a message to the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Cornelio Sommaruga [name as received], said Iran was ready to receive more Iranian POWs.

"ICRC will be provided with necessary facilities to carry out this humanitarian responsibility if the number of released POWs is increased," Dastgerdi said. Expressing concern over the fate of unregistered Iranian POWs and those missing in action, he termed the present conditions as the "best opportunity" for registration of Iranian POWs and their speedy repatriation.

The Red Crescent chief asked the ICRC president to take necessary measures regarding the aforesaid points. Iraq had earlier declared that 19,000 Iranian POWs were registered with the ICRC, but later it announced that the unregistered POWs will also be released during the swap which started Friday.

ICRC Ready for 8,000 Daily

LD1808185190 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA—Iran would repatriate daily 8,000 Iraqi POW's if the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) declares readiness to arrange for their return, a military commander said Saturday.

Brigadier General Bijan Afsharzadeh, in charge of the headquarters for exchange of the POW's, regretted that the ICRC had not yet taken necessary measures to increase the number of repatriated POW's. "In such circumstances these bodies should carry out their responsibilities with all their might and facilities," he said.

Reporting on the round-the-clock activities of the headquarters for the exchange of the POW's he said since the beginning of the exchange operation on Friday, 10,000 army personnel have been employed to facilitate the despatch of the Iraqi POW's to the Khosravi general region.

"We are doing our best to take the most advantage of each and every moment to repatriate the Iraqi POW's," he said. Afsharzadeh referring to the great deal of work which should be done for the release of a single Iraqi POW, said in ordinary circumstances such tasks would take a long time to be completed.

Among these tasks, he pointed to the preparation of the POW camps, providing of new clothes and shoes, payment of their last salary, donation of gifts, completion of a special form, preparation of related lists and the despatch of particular teams. He also thanked road and transport ministry and all bus drivers for their cooperation in the transfer of the Iraqi POW's to the border areas.

Second Group Released

LD1908080590 Tehran IRNA in English 0624 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Qasr-e Shirin, Bakhtaran Prov., Aug. 19, IRNA—The second batch of the Iraqi prisoners of war (POW's) were transferred from here to Khosrawi border point to be handed over to the international Red Cross officials Sunday morning, a military official told IRNA.

Iran started repatriation of the Iraqi POW's Saturday reciprocating Iraqi move which began Friday. The official added that in a move to accelerate the repatriation procedure, another batch of the Iraqi POW's are likely to be transferred to Khosrawi border point Sunday afternoon.

Release Sought From Quarantine

LD1908092590 Tehran IRNA in English 0739 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 19, IRNA—The released prisoners of war (POW's) will be initially kept in quarantine to undergo medical test and utmost effort will be carried out to accelerate their reunion with their families, an official said here Saturday night.

The first batch of 1,000 freed POW's who were handed over to the Iranian authorities last Friday are still in quarantine in Bakhtaran Province, head of the headquarters in charge of the freed POW's Abbas-Ali Vakili said in a press conference. Vakili added that in accordance with the international norms the released POW's should remain in quarantine for 72 hours, but in a bid to speed up their reunion with family members, the headquarters has made the necessary arrangements with the Health Ministry and the International Red Cross to cut the period to 48 hours.

He continued that the second batch of 1,000 freed POW's are in quarantine since Saturday night. The official further told reporters that negotiations are underway with both Iraqi and the International Red Cross officials on probing the possibility of exchanging 5,000 POW's each time, instead of 1,000. "Iran has announced its readiness in this regard," he added.

Paper Urges Speedy POW Excange

LD1908091990 Tehran IRNA in English 0744 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 19, IRNA—An Iranian English-language daily Sunday called on the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to increase the number of prisoners of war being exchanged from 1,000 to 5,000 daily. 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' added in its editorial that the ICRC must mobilize all the potentials in Iran and Iraq to this end.

The daily also called on the ICRC to start to register those POW's who have not been registered yet so that they would be released soon too. Iranian officials have voiced readiness to repatriate between 5,000-8,000 Iraqi POW's daily if the ICRC declares readiness to arrange for their return.

Iraq Releases Third Group

LD1908105690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] The third batch of pride-inspiring freed POW's returned to the Islamic homeland this morning.

According to the central news unit, another 1,000 of the freed POWs were handed over to the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials at 1100 today, under the supervision of the representatives of the Red Cross and the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group at the Khosravi border.

Exchange Agreement Announced

LD1908170290 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 19, IRNA—Iran and Iraq have agreed to exchange 8,000 POWs daily, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Sunday. He said according to the agreement reached by Iranian and Iraqi representatives in Geneva, the POW's will be repatriated by air and through land under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Iraq has so far released 3,000 Iranian POW's in three groups since Friday. Iran has sent back some 2,000 Iraqi POW's home due to ICRC's failure to arrange for more.

Iraq Releases 1,000 More

LD1908164490 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Khosravi, Bakhtaran Prov., IRNA—Iraq released another one thousand Iranian prisoners of war (POW's) who arrived here Sunday morning. The total number of Iranian POW's released by Iraq now stands at 3000. The POW's were held in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul and were captured in the first year of the Iraqi imposed war. It seems Iraq has give preference to those with relatively longer period of captivity in Iraq.

Also the second one thousand of Iraqi POW's who had been freed were handed to the Intern-ational Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the neighboring Iraqi township of Manzarieh. ICRC has set up several camps in Manzarieh and puts every POW under medical examinations. So far Iran has released 2000 POW's and Iraq 3000.

The Iranian POW's were handed over to the representatives of the Islamic Republic Red Crescent Society, Foreign Ministry, and Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC). Islamic Republic Army is responsible for organizing transmission of the Iraqi POW's. Iraqi POW's were dressed in similar suits and the Iranians in uniforms.

Khosravi of Iran which was a tiny but active town before the imposed war is now a complete ruin, the only erect wall in it being that of a mosque. Iraqi forces on August 18, pulled out their forces from their stands on the side of the Qasr-e-Shirin to Khosravi road, blowing up their fortifications in the area. They laid mines in the area and therefore the only safe way to Qasr-e-Shirin town is the asphalt road there. On the same day of exchanging the POW's, Iraqi forces evacuated more Iranian territory.

The occupied area is a 2600 sq. kms. in eight different regions in western and southern Iran in which Iraq maintained its forces until her formal acceptance, last week, of the 1975-algiers accord.

The dailies in Iran have printed the names of the first one thousand POW's released on August 17. ICRC said Iran and Iraq have called for exchange of more POW's per day. It said it would make an effort to fulfill the expectation of the two countries by speeding up the formal process of repatriation.

Release Continues

LD2008102790 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Qasr-e Shirin, Bakhtaran Prov., Aug. 20, IRNA—The fourth batch of the released Iranian POW's were handed over by the Iraqi authorities to the officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) at Khosravi border point in the Western Iran Monday morning. Meanwhile, the third batch of the Iraqi POW's numbering 1,000 set off for Khosravi region Monday morning to be handed over to the ICRC officials.

The incoming POW's arrived in Manzariyeh township of Iraq on the Iran-Iraq border minutes before 9:00 hours local time (5:30 GMT) who were then transferred to the Red Cross camps set up for this purpose. An IRNA dispatch from the area said Iraqi busses continue to bring the Iranian POW's to the Manzariyeh township and it is not yet known how many of them will be handed over to the Iranians on Monday.

Both Iran and Iraq have announced their readiness to release more POW's each day and the ICRC has promised to cooperate. More buses were sent to Khosravi border on Monday to facilitate transfer of greater numbers of POW's.

In the provincial capital of Bakhtaran, the residents stayed up late last night celebrating the return of the Iranian POW's. They are anxiously awaiting new arrivals. In Islamabad-e Charb and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, in this western province, musical bands are playing traditional Kurdish music for the incoming POW's.

The freed POW's are given an official welcome in Qasr-e Shirin where their fellow combatants present them bunches of flowers. The freed POW's after remaining in quarantine for 40 hours are taken to the provincial capital to be flown to Tehran.

Officials Welcome, React to Prisoners Release

'Text' of Rafsanjani Message

LD1708122790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has issued a message on the occasion of the homecoming of the brave released POWs to the Islamic homeland honoring their arrival. The text of the president's message is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Peace unto you for that ye preserved in patience! [preceding passage Koranic verse read in Arabic] O honorable freemen, we honor your blessed arrival. Your glorious and victorious homecoming has brought happiness and delight to millions of hearts expecting your arrival. Today on the arrival of the pioneers of the caravan of Islam and the revolution, we witness the realization of the promised divine assistance, the fruition of the immaculate tree of Jihad on the path to God, and the manifestation of aspirations and anticipations of the founder of the islamic Republic of Iran. We witness the freshness and delight of the tulip garden of your fellow trenchmen.

God Almighty be praised for giving the struggle of the self-sacrificing, steadfast ummah an appropriate reward, and—through the expediency of our wise leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and the endeavors of the officials—disappointed the enemies of Islam, forced world arrogance to admit the victory of Islam and Muslims, and brought to fruition the goals and aims of the eight years of holy Jihad and the surrender of the aggressors against the rightful and legitimate demands.

May the departed imam, the honorable leader, the Islamic ummah, the patient and steadfast families of the released POW's and martyrs, the self-sacrificing devotees, and all strugglers be felicitated on this victory.

The history of Islam is proud of you captive lions who, through a healthy belief and wisdom, through patience in the face of problems during captivity, made the enemy powerless and forced it to confess to your steadfastness, and finally returned to the base of the revolution glorious and with your heads held high. No doubt the noble spirits of your martyred fellow trenchmen are satisfied with you as you safeguarded their immaculate blood, and pray for you in coordination with the Islamic ummah.

[Signed] Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran

17 August 90.

Rafsanjani Welcoming Remarks

NC2008104190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] A group of free men who have returned to the Islamic homeland arrived in Tehran yesterday afternoon and were officially welcomed at Mehrabad Airport by President Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani; Mr. Mohammadi-Golpayegani, the esteemed leadership's representative; a number of ministers; the chief of the general staff; a number of military commanders; the Tehran mayor; and Tehran residents.

After their arrival in Tehran, the free men were showered with flowers by the children of martyrs. During this ceremony, after the national anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran and an anthem performed by the free men, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke to them and said: Meeting with you is a very sweet and spectacular event. For years we and the steadfast Iranian nation had been counting the minutes until this day. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: We thank God that this moment coincided with our victory, with the enemy's surrender, and with the acceptance of the desires for which you fought, were taken captive, and suffered. When you were released, the entire Iranian nation was overjoyed. When you were in the Iraqi prisons, you did not know how the heart of the nation beat for you because the greatest problem that tormented the heart of the Iranian nation was that the dear ones were in captivity.

The president added: There were sometimes those who thought that concessions should be made for your salvation and for a possible acceleration of the freedom of you, the dear ones. But those who were acquainted with the principles of the revolution and with the imam's path, and especially you yourselves and your esteemed families, did not accept this and stated that we will wait and will not give any concessions to Iraq. And God rewarded this patience and satisfied the hearts of the people.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then emphasized that the world today has realized and the enemy has accepted that we are right. He then referred to the demise of his eminence the imam and told the sad free men: You are returning at a time when our dear and great imam is not among us. But our and your hearts are a proof of the imam's affection toward you, and the great spirit of our deceased imam is present here and witnessing your victorious return.

The president pointed out that the imam's impact and thoughts rule Islamic Iran and that his presence is felt everywhere. Today, fortunately, the best and most worthy person for whom the imam himself had affection—that is, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i—has succeeded him and is continuing on his path.

Referring to the efforts by the cabinet and by other institutions and organizations and to the Majlis decision on solving the free men's problems, the president said: We have counted on your personalities in our calculations today, and we think that tens of thousands of free human beings who hardened into steel during their captivity in prison will be at the service of the revolution and the country. The president added: We do not regard you, the dear ones, as released prisoners of war. We regard you as a reserve of the revolution and a backbone which will be effective in reconstructing Islamic Iran.

In conclusion, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated: The enemy has stopped pointing his gun at us today, and society is in the process of reconstruction. We hope that we can construct this country in a way which will satisfy the imam of the ages, may God accelerate his advent. You should know that, thank God, unity and solidarity rule your Islamic country today. We hope to be able, under the leadership of Ayatollah Khamene'i, to carry out our duties.

A statement issued by the headquarters in charge of the affairs of the free men said a group of the dear free men will go to the tomb of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God bless his soul, and pledge allegiance to the ideals of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Also, according to the posted program, a number of free men are to return to the Islamic homeland today.

Ahmad Khomeyni Welcomes

LD1708174990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] On the occasion of the glorious and pride-inspiring return to the Islamic homeland by the brave children of Islam—devoted and patient companions of the imam of the patient and great banner-carrier of freedom, the great Imam Khomeyni—a message was issued by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni which states: Our Islamic country is today host to guests, every one of whom is one great book of reminiscences on several years of jihad, epic-making, martyrdom, and patience. O, would that the imam and the martyrs were with us to welcome these righteous children of Islam and lovingly embrace them!

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni refers to the fact that there is reason for much good fortune that our defensive war ended at a point when our Islamic homeland is standing steadfast and stable on all geographical, ideological and political borders.

The message continues: The great nation of iran stood steadfast in such a way in the face of repeated blows and all kinds of plots hatched by global arrogance that now Iran shines as a great power in the world of Islam and in the region of the Persian Gulf. This glory, honor, and power are due to following the holy aspirations of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be accepted in

Paradise—and also due to the sacrifices and devotion of the martyrs, the POW's the MIA's, and their families' patience and resistance.

Papers Comment

LD1808111190 Tehran IRNA in English 0926 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA—Two Persian morning dailies devoted their editorials to the Friday home coming of the first batch of the Iranian POW's held in Iraq, some of them practically after 10 years of captivity.

'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' lauded resistance of the Iranian POW's in withstanding the hardships in safeguarding Islam and dignity of their Islamic country and Muslim countrymen. Such a resistance, the article noted, thwarted countless plots the enemies hatched in the past decade to damage the mutual trust between the nation and the officials.

These plots, the daily stressed, in the one hand aimed at portraying the nation as exhausted and worn out to a point that it could no longer resist. On the other hand, the idea was to dishearten the officials and weaken their determination to continue their efforts to safeguard the grandeur of the country, wrote the article. It assured the POW's that although the great leader of the Islamic revolution, the late Imam Khomeyni, was not among the nation his path was being continued.

Meanwhile, 'ABRAR' wrote that the return of the POW's to the country was the fruit of the resistance of the nation and an award bestowed to them by the almighty God. "Yesterday the pleasant pride of victory was prevailing in the country" a victory gained after 10 years of resistance against those who intended to "stain our reputation", commented the daily.

Meanwhile, the two English-language dailies editorialized on the current crisis in the Persian Gulf region which reached the peak with the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, and called for an imminent solution. "Invasion and military attacks have no supporters in the ending years of the 20th century and will ultimately prove a waste of the precious human life," stressed 'TEHRAN TIMES.'

It noted that coordinated regional diplomacy along with efforts by international bodies "can certainly end the crisis." The paper said: "Presence of foreign forces in this part of the world will not only not be any help to peace but will aggravate the security situation."

This unwanted presence will only shoot up tension in the region and prove detrimental to the regional nations' sovereignty, added the daily. With the settlement of the decade-long conflict between Iran and Iraq, "the two powerful nations in this region," it is hoped that the Iraq-Kuwait problem too will soon see its end by Iraqi pull out, the daily noted. "The sooner Iraq moves out of Kuwait, the better for the Iraqi people and the region at large," the article concluded.

Commenting on the presence of foreign forces in the region, 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' stressed that American forces are fully prepared to go to war against Iraq, one of America's most important allies of only two years ago. "The tragedy for the region and the world is that with so many unknowables involved in the outbreak of U.S.-Iraqi hostilities, the international community is now hostage to American domestic political considerations."

Thus, the daily commented, "as Iran and Iraq mend fences, the region is poised for another war. There seems to be no face saving instrument available and it is not expected that Mr. Saddam Husayn will blink or back down under the circumstances."

Kuwait-Based Iranians Return via Iraq

LD1908163490 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 19, IRNA—The first group of Iranians residing in Kuwait crossed into Iran through Shalamcheh on the southwestern borders with Iraq, in their cars Sunday. The group numbering 5,000 which crossed into Iran through the Iraqi border in their cars were lodged in temporary camps in Khuzestan province.

Ardeshir Borouman who lived in Kuwait for the past 14 years, described the situation in that country following the Iraqi invasion on August 2 as "uneasy". He told reporters that business has come to a standstill in Kuwait and that it was difficult to get food and medicines.

Hasan Hamzei said two weeks after Iraq's seizure "sporadic gunfire could still be heard on the streets and lanes of Kuwait city." Iranians residing in Kuwait are in a fairly good condition and "we had not much difficulties in returning to Iran," said Nasrollah Gholami who spent 35 years in the tiny sheikhdom.

The Khuzestan governor-general has ordered necessary facilities to be provided for Iranians returning home from Kuwait through the Shalamcheh border. He expressed hope that the 60,000 to 70,000 Iranians residing in Kuwait would have safe passage to home in the coming days.

Guard Corps Ready To Face Gulf 'Aggression'

LD1908114290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] The commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has greeted the return of Iranian POW's to the Islamic homeland in a telegram to the eminent leader and commander in chief of the armed forces, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. The telegram declared that the guards corps and the basij [mobilisation of the oppressed] are prepared to confront any conspiracy or aggression in the Persian Gulf region.

Iraqi Troop Withdrawal Continues in Border Areas

Ilam Heights

LD1708162290 Tehran IRNA in English 1516 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Ilam, Aug. 17, IRNA—Iraqi troops started to pull out from the Kalleh-Qandi and Kanjan Cham heights in the Ilam border strip as of last midnight. Iranian field commanders told IRNA that in the Mehran region heavy trucks and command vehicles of the Iraqi Army carried out non-stop activities along the 15-km-long strip over the past ten hours.

"They seem to be busy around the Meymak and Qalavizan [spelling as received] heights. However, there is still no evidence on the withdrawal from Mehran town itself," said border officers. IRNA correspondent reports from the region that a group of Iraqi troops are busy dismantling their positions and packing up their equipment including wooden beams, iron bars and etc. No information is yet available on the exact area evacuated by Iraqi soldiers.

White flags the emblem of peace could be seen instead of the Iraqi ensign atop the hitherto occupied posts. Following the Iraqi acceptance ofthe 1975 accord, forces of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) have expanded their activities.

Khosravi Pullout Begins

LD1708183890 Tehran IRNA in English 1557 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Qasr-e Shirin (Bakhtaran Prov.), Aug. 17, IRNA—Iraqi forces began to pull out from parts of the Khosravi border region, which was under occupation since the beginning of the imposed war. According to field commanders, Iraqi forces are yet to evacuate parts of the Khosravi region including Khosravi town and its customs office.

IRNA reporters in the region said that Iraqi forces seem busy dismantling their positions for withdrawal from Iranian soil in some Western areas including Bavisi-ye pa'in and the Qasr-e Shirin region.

Withdrawal Continues

LD1808084490 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA—The Iraqi troops have reportedly been withdrawing from the western border areas Friday and overnight and have returned behind the international borders. The Iraqis have pulled out of their long-held positions in Baba Hajji, Kalleh Qandi, Kalleh Bozi, Aq-Dagh, Ahangaran and Tang-Pishegan heights and areas in Qasr-E Shirin region and also areas in Naft Shahr, Soumar, Mehran and Meimak. According to military sources, Iraqi forces are busy preparing for a complete pullout from other western border regions.

Following the Iraqi acceptance of the Iranian terms for peace including the 1975 accord last Wednesday, on Iraq began evacuating its forces from the Iranian territories and releasing the Iranian POWs on Friday.

Meanwhile, representative of Velayat-e Faqih (the office of the religious jurisprudence) in the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahmud Mohammadi Araki congratulated the victorious return of the Iranian POW's in a message to the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i Friday. The Hojjat ol-Eslam in his message also announced the readiness of the IRGC forces to continue defending the Islamic revolution and confronting any aggression by the enemies of Islam.

Preparation in Dehloran

LD1808122990 Tehran IRNA in English 1036 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Ilam, Aug. 18, IRNA—Iraqi forces have started preparations for the pull out from the occupied territories in Dehloran, southeastern Ilam, since Friday night. IRNA reporter quoting informed sources said that the movement of the Iraqi forces have been intensified along the border strip since Friday night. However, the sources added, the Iraqi forces are still stationed at their previous positions.

Meanwhile, 30 medical teams have been stationed in the western border areas of the country to provide service to the freed POW's. The Tehran Provincial Health Department added that several hospitals in the capital are ready to take in those freed POW's who are in need of medical care.

Shalamcheh, Kushk

LD1808135190 Tehran IRNA in English 1312 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), Aug. 18, IRNA—Iraqi forces have pulled out from more than 60 percent of the occupied areas in southern Shalamcheh and Kushk region since they started evacuation Friday. Iraqis are busy pulling out from 120 sq. kms of the occupied areas in the southern regions, and are seen dismantling their positions.

Iraq had deployed its 3rd Corps, including three armoured and engineering divisions, and part of its 7th Corps in the occupied Shalamcheh and Kushk region. The withdrawal has taken place in the southern sector without the supervision of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG).

After its re-acceptance of the 1975 accord, Iraq started pulling out its forces from over 2,000 kms of occupied Iranian soil, and simultaneously started releasing POW's the first batch of whom numbering 1,000 arrived in Iran yesterday. Baghdad has announced that the withdrawal would take five days to complete.

In related news, people gathered in front of the Tehran office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) today, and called on the body to increase the number of POW's being exchanged. ICRC had earlier said that it was capable of exchanging only 1,000 POW's each day.

Parts of Khosravi Region

LD1808145190 Tehran IRNA in English 1402 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Qasr-e shirin, Aug. IRNA [dateline as received]—Iraqi forces have pulled back two kms from their positions on occupied Iranian soil in the Khosravi border region since Friday midnight. Iraq is still holding Khosravi and its customs office, but according to last reports has withdrawn its forces from large tracts of Iranian soil including Naft Shahr, Mehran and Maimak [placename as received] in the central sector of the common border.

The Iraqi pullout from over 2,000 kms of occupied Iranian soil started simultaneously with the exchange of POW's Friday after Baghdad's re-acceptance of the 1975 accord with Iran.

Pullout Continues From Ilam

LD1908105490 Tehran IRNA in English 1007 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Ilam, Aug. 19, IRNA—The Iraqi forces have reportedly began withdrawing from the Mousian region in this western province, an informed source in the Office of the Provincial Governor general told IRNA Sunday.

He added that the Iraqi forces throughout last night and this morning have been withdrawing their armoured equipment and military hardware from the general regions of Dehloran, Mousian, Sarney and Kalleh Khaneh, Konjan Cham and Meimak heights in this province. [all place names as received]

According to an informed military source in the United Nations Iraq-Iran Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) have not yet allowed the Iranian forces to replace the outgoing Iraqi forces in the border region.

Similar movements have been observed throughout the border strip of Ilam Province, said the source at the Governor General's Office. He anticipated that in accordance with the Iraqi proposed plan for withdrawal, all Iraqi forces will most likely leave the region by August 21.

South, West Nearly Complete

LD2008083590 Tehran IRNA in English 0648 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Qasr-e Shirin, Bakhtaran Prov., Aug. 20, IRNA—Iraqi forces have evacuated the strategic heights of Meimak and Agh-Dagh in the western border region, IRNA correspondent reported Sunday. The IRNA correspondent who toured the area Sunday afternoon said that the Iraqi forces have withdrawn from most part of the occupied territories in the western part of the country.

Meanwhile, according to a Sunday dispatch from Shalamcheh region, southern border, withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from the area which began last Friday still continues. It added that most parts of the occupied territories in the southern border region have been evacuated and there is no sign of the Iraqi troops.

The withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from the occupied lands in southern and western Iran began last Friday after Iraq last week accepted Iran's terms for peace. The move is accompanied by repatriation of the war prisoners.

A number of departing Iraqi soldiers in Shalamcheh, region asked the Iranian forces for copies of the Holy Quran, other religious books and headbands bearing Islamic scripts, worn by Iran's Basij combatants in 1980-88 war, to take home as souvenirs.

Velayati Describes Correspondence With Saddam

LD1708181490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati sent a letter to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar this evening. The text of the letter is as follows:

To: His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary-general, New York.

With reference to the Iraqi president's letter dated 14 August 1990 and addressed to the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], his promulgation of the acceptance of the IRI's proposal contained in the letter dated 18 August 1990, and Iraq's announcement of its renewed pledge to the 1975 border and good neighborliness accord, I would now like to inform you of the development of direct contacts to provide you with an up-to-date account of the proceedings and also for the purpose of its registration as a UN document.

1. From 22 April 1990 until 15 August 1990 the IRI president in a series of letters written in response to those of the Iraqi president—the last of which was dated 8 August 1990—considered the key to the establishment of peace between the two countries as the two sides' commitment to the 1975 border and good neighborliness accord and Security Council Resolution 598 and called on the Iraqi president to accept that proposal.

2. The Iraqi Government proposed that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz should leave for Iran to visit IRI officials and to carry out part of the negotiations. The president of Iran stipulated the announcement of a previous pledge to the 1975 accord as a precondition for the implementation of that visit.

3. Therefore, in view of the fact that the 1975 border and good neighborliness accord which was signed between the two countries which was registered and distributed at the United Nations in 1984—whose validity has hitherto remained intact—and which was endorsed by Iraq in a letter dated 13 August 1990, I request you to instruct the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group to act to supervise and confirm the withdrawal based on the 1975 accord which came into effect as from today and which is to be completed within five days in accordance with the Iraqi Government's promulgation.

The IRI Government continues to declare its commitment to Security Council Resolution 598 and invites Your Excellency to play a role and supervise all stages in the establishment of peace between Iran and Iraq, in accordance with Resolution 598.

[Signed] 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister

The Foreign Ministry announced that the text of the IRI president's letter dated 8 August 1990 to the Iraqi president was sent to the UN Secretary-General as an appendix to that letter, so that the two letters may be registered as UN documents and distributed among the members.

Security Council Session Discusses Gulf Crisis

LD1808213390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] The Supreme National Security Council held a session Saturday afternoon in the presence of His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution . All members, high-ranking commanders of the forces, and political advisors attended the session, which discussed the crisis in the Persian Gulf. Appropriate decisions were made.

Khalkhali, MPs Denounce Saddam, U.S. Presence

LD1708163290 Tehran IRNA in English 1421 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA—A Tehran parliamentarian has said that "without the least doubt Saddam (Husayn) is an aggressor," a point which the Iranian people and government have time and again emphasized to the whole world.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Sadeq Khalkhali whose comments appeared in the Persian daily ABRAR Thursday [16 August], further said that the arrogant powers did not want to admit this fact during the imposed war, because of their enmity towards Islam. He sharply condemned Saddam's latest aggression and occupation of Kuwait, ans was equally critical on the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf.

He said, in line with international laws and regulations, "world countries especially Muslim ones should pressure Saddam to withdraw from Kuwait and return to the internationally-recognized border." The hojjat ol-Eslam said Fahd's call on the U.S. proved beyond doubt "that the Saudis have been installed by global arrogance and international Zionism."

He likened Fahd to "a U.S. governor, like that of Alabama, but in the hijaz." "We cannot bear to see the administration of the two holy shrines run by U.S. invaders. All Muslims including Arab governments should do their best to pressure the world devourer U.S. to withdraw." Khalkhali said Americans want to deflect the world's attention from Palestine towards the Persian Gulf. "The U.S. itself is the number one aggressor of our era, and seeks nothing except the security of the illegal state of Israel." he added.

ABRAR also published the views of two other Tehran MPs on the Persian Gulf crisis. It quoted Tehran's Reza Bahonar as saying that military expedition and aggression certainly deserve condemnation and "Iran was among the first countries to denounce the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait." He made it clear that regional disputes should be settled only by regional states and bodies, and thought "there is still a chance for the settlement of the issue locally."

Najafqoli Habibi [name as received] said that whatever motive Saddam had behind the occupation of Kuwait, "will of course, not change the reality that a U.S.-puppet regime (Kuwait) was overthrown, and Kuwaiti soil annexed to Iraq." This very reason, he said has brought the U.S. and its allies to the region. However, he added, "the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait is Saddam's second capital crime and a big treachery against Islam and the Islamic ummah after the imposed war."

Habibi commented that Saddam caused the "disgraced and humiliated U.S." to send its forces to the region under the pretext of standing up to an aggression. "But the plot of reactionaries, especially the house of Sa'ud in inviting foreign forces and paying their expenses from the Beitul-Mal (Muslim Treasury), to prolong their own shameless lifestyles, crown and throne, teach us not to have any pity on them," concluded the MP.

Musavi-Ardebili Condemns Iraq, U.S. 'Aggression'

LD1708114690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Simultaneous with the anniversary of the martyrdom of the fourth leader of world Shi'as, Imam Zeyn-ol 'Abedin, peace be upon on him, Muslim compatriots throughout the country today held the rites of the politico-religious Friday prayers.

Meanwhile, the people of Tehran today arrived at the Tehran University and the adjacent streets to hold the Friday prayers under the leadership of Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili.

The acting Friday prayers leader of Tehran, in the prayer sermons, on the occasion of the martyrdom of Imam Zeyn-ol 'Abedin, peace be upon on him, explained

passages from the life of that martyr, which was full of struggle—struggle aimed at communicating the message of the blood-soaked uprising of Karbala and the resurgence of the lord of the martyrs, His Holiness Husayn 'Ali, peace be upon on him.

In the second sermon of the prayers, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili referred to the return of the POW's to the Islamic homeland; he then said: Today is the day when our nation offers thanks to God; it is the day when the brave Iranian nation witnesses the fruit of eight years of holy defense.

Praising the patience and steadfastness of the brave Iranian nation during the imposed war, as well as their endurance over eight years of holy defence, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili said: Today our people, whether man or woman, old or young, are thanking Almighty God for that great blessing to our nation. Our nation thanks the officials of the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially the president of the Republic, who managed to perform peace talks at a desirable level during the past years, even after the acceptance of Resolution 598, despite the problems and difficulties. Our nation thanks them for their vast efforts to that end under the guidance of the exalted leader.

Offering his felicitations on the occasion of the return of the first group of POW's, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili said: We welcome most sincerely the beloved POW's who lived in captivity away from the dear homeland during eight years of holy defense. We must know that today we owe everything we have to the blessings, leadership, and prayers of our great imam.

Continuing the second sermon, the Tehran acting Friday prayers leader condemned the aggression of the Iraqi forces against Kuwait. He then referred to the movement of U.S. forces to the Persian Gulf region and said: U.S. troop movement to Persian Gulf is a blatant aggression against this region. One cannot remove an aggression by another aggression.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili added: The U.S. objective is to gain a new foothold in the Persian Gulf with the purpose of achieving its military and economic aims and holding sway over the oil resources of the region. If America succeeds in perpetuating its presence in the region, it would hardly depart from the Persian Gulf. America desires to create an oil crisis in the world; it wants to hold sway over the world resources and reserves. [Thus] Iraq has no alternative but to leave Kuwaiti territory unconditionally. If Iraq agrees to withdraw its forces from Kuwait, in the same way as it accepted the 1975 [Algiers] agreement, then it would be in the interests of that country.

ECO Foreign Ministers Condemn Iraqi Occupation

LD1908185990 Tehran IRNA in English 1739 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 19, IRNA—The Foreign Ministers of Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan, members of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), today unanimously condemned Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. "We all agreed that the occupation of a country by another is not justified and against the security in the region," he [Velayati] told reporters after a meeting of the ECO foreign ministers in Tehran Sunday [19 August].

"Our discussion today focussed mainly on Iraq's occupation of Kuwait," he said, adding that "all the three countries declared their stands in condemnation of the aggression." "We all agreed that regional cooperation can prevent the presence of foreigners (in the region)" Velayati said.

He expressed hope that "the consultations we have held in the recent weeks with the regional countries, including the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, Syria, Turkey and Pakistan, would provide the prelude for a regional cooperation which will certainly contribute to peace and tranquility in the region." The Turkish Foreign Minister 'Ali Bozer arrived here Saturday and left Sunday evening. During his stay here he met with his Iranian counterpart and was also received by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan arrived here Sunday. Velayati said the three foreign ministers had also reviewed ways and means for a "speedy and just solution to the present undesirable" state of affairs in the region.

He also said the ECO foreign ministers had decided to continue their consultations within reasonable intervals and on a rotating basis. He hoped that the ECO cooperation will be further consolidated in the future.

Commentary on 'New Chapter' in Iraqi Relations

LD1608211190 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The Iraqi TV yesterday read out to the Iraqi people the text of that country's president's letter addressed to the Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. With the reading of this letter in which Saddam Husayn has declared the UN Resolution 598 for the termination of the war as acceptable to him, a new (?horizon) appears in the relation between Iranian and Iraqi nations. [passage omitted]

The Iranian and Iraqi nations know well what the role of the superpowers and (?their affiliated) governments has been in imposing this unwanted war. And today when the Iraqi Government has (?apparently) come to realize how useless the war has been, the colonialist powers will enter the field with a new approach to (?reanimate) tension in the relations between the two nations. [passage omitted]

Of course, there is a difference between the typing of an optimistic letter to the successful implementation of its articles, as the past experiences have shown that we should be somehow cautious. Nonetheless, until within a

future date when (?we will witness) any acceleration of the trend of implementation of the letter's articles in a practical manner, we can assume that the Iranian and Iraqi nations will witness a new chapter in relations between the two states.

Since yesterday, the Western mass media have started printing articles which do not seem to include all the realities told. So then if we do not intend to talk in their irresponsible manner we shall refrain from talking more about Mr. Saddam Husayn's letter. [passage omitted]

We hope that now that the flames of war have been extinguished and the sound of heavy tanks will pretty soon be replaced by the divine sound of peace, the Iranian and Iraqi nations make all their endeavors to fight the enemies of Islam, especially the (?sect) of Zionism, so that under their efforts, Israel which termed by Imam Khomeyni, may his soul rest in peace, resembles a cancerous tumor, will be uprooted from the Middle East.

Press Condemns Foreign Military Moves in Gulf

LD1908091690 Tehran IRNA in English 0823 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 19, IRNA—Three morning dailies Sunday warned against escalation of crisis in the Persian Gulf Region, noting that all elements involved were paving the way for an imminent severe confrontation in this strategically important part of the world.

In its editorial "U.S. Stab in the Heart of the Oil-rich Region of the Islamic World," 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' wrote that the U.S. cannot deceitfully disguise its military operations and aggression under the mask of "fighting against aggression." "We will unmask the U.S. and would once again disclose its true nature to the world," stressed the article.

The U.S. during the past decade launched a military aggression against Iran and instigated hostilities of the Arab reactionaries against the Islamic revolution, said the editorial. Therefore, the daily noted, "it (the U.S.) is directly responsible for all those aggressions and crimes."

Editorializing on the same subject, 'ABRAR' said that although all the means are ready for "a massive explosion in the region," it is hard for the belligerent parties to decide which side should initiate the fighting. The article pointed to the reinforcement of Western forces, the U.S. especially, in Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf and noted that it has emboldened Saudi rulers to express their ideas overtly.

However, beyond the display of power by the West and the U.S. vis-a-vis maneuvers of the Iraqi president, an international effort is underway at the United Nations to subside the crisis, wrote the daily. "The U.N. secretary general, the Soviet Union, China and to some extent France are trying to turn the military crisis into a political issue before it turns the Persian Gulf region into an insecure region to the advantage of the U.S.," it noted.

This, the article concluded, on the one hand depends on elimination of factors intensifying the crisis in the region and, on the other hand, to the extent of self-restraint shown by the belligerent parties.

Meanwhile, the English-language 'TEHRAN TIMES' pointed to the current "breathtaking pace" of events in the region and wrote that even the U.S. tour of Jordan's King Husayn has failed to bear any fruit as a mediator between Washington and Baghdad.

However, the daily noted, "some regional and Western circles are trying to drag Iran into the current crisis (triggered by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait) by cashing in on the recent agreements reached between Iran and Iraq over their ten-year long conflict."

"But," the article stressed, "this fact should be well digested by all, that Iran will in no way pit itself in a war against Iraq in order for the Kuwaiti shaykhs to return, or, for the sake of Western interests in this part of the world." Iran's position towards the deployment of foreign forces in the region is clear, said the editorial.

"Tehran rejects foreign military presence in this highly sensitive part of the globe. The Islamic republic firmly condemns presence of foreign powers in the region," it concluded.

Pakistan

Foreign Minister Briefs Senate on Gulf Situation

BK1708142690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Caretaker Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has briefed the Senate on the rapidly changing situation following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. In his briefing the foreign minister pointed out the geographical and military implications of the situation, especially its impact on Pakistan, and explained Pakistan's decision to join the Islamic forces to safeguard the two holiest Muslim shrines and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Saudi Arabia. The foreign minister also informed the Senate of the situation of Pakistanis in Kuwait and the steps taken by the government in this regard. The foreign minister will make a final statement on this issue at a Senate discussion due to be held soon.

President on Troop Dispatch to Saudi Arabia

BK1808150190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] A delegation of ulema belonging to various schools of thought called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. The president told the delegation that Pakistan's decision to assist Saudi Arabia in its defense efforts is not aimed against any other country.

The president clarified that the Pakistani forces will be entrusted with the sole responsibility of protecting Saudi Arabia and the holy places which they will carry out in cooperation with armed forces contingents from other Islamic countries. He said the Pakistani forces will remain within Saudi frontiers. The delegation commended the government's decision and said that it reflects the aspirations of the entire nation. The delegation was led by Maulana Abdul Qadir Azad, the preacher of the Badshahi Mosque in Lahore.

4,500 Pakistanis Evacuated From Kuwait, Iraq

BK1908063490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0612 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 19 (AFP)—About 4,500 Pakistanis have so far escaped from Kuwait and Iraq out of an estimated 145,000 stranded in the two countries, officials here said. A director of the government's Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) said late Saturday there were 95,000 Pakistanis in Kuwait and 50,000 in Iraq, most of them workers, on August 2 when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

He said that about 1,000 had since arrived in Pakistan, another 3,000 were in Saudi Arabia after having crossed into the kingdom from Kuwait and 500 had reached Jordan. He said the total number of Pakistanis in Kuwait included about 10,000 unregistered nationals. The number of unlisted Pakistanis in Iraq was 5,000.

An official statement said Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was operating special flights to Riyadh in addition to regular ones to bring back Pakistanis arriving there from Kuwait. Airlift arrangements will be augmented according to emerging needs, the statement said, adding that by August 22 an estimated 2,600 people will have been evacuated on flights from Riyadh to Karachi. PIA has also brought back some 250 stranded Pakistanis from Amman on scheduled flights and has diverted a flight from New York.

Despite Pakistan's decision to send troops to bolster the U.S.-led multi-national force in Saudi Arabia, the statement said Islamabad was in constant touch with Baghdad to allow the use of Iraqi airports for airlifting Pakistanis.

Amid growing concern about the safety of the trapped Pakistani nationals, official circles are also analysing the likely economic effects of the Gulf turmoil on the country. Officials here anticipate that remmitances from Pakistani workers in the Middle East could go down to 700 million dollars this year from 1.8 billion dollars last year.

While there is little hope of remittances coming from the stranded workers, Saudi Arabia has reportedly told all expatriate workers to send not more than 25 per cent of their monthly earnings to their country. About 200,000 Pakistanis are employed in the kingdom, according to reliable sources here.

Analysts said the kingdom may have to repatriate all the Pakistanis arriving from Kuwait and Iraq, adding to the unemployment problem here. Pakistani exports are also likely to be hit if the current Gulf situation continues for another few weeks as high oil prices throw the recipients of Pakistani exports into a slump, business sources said. But Pakistan's decision to send troops to Saudi Arabia is viewed as opening the door to the possibility of receiving Saudi oil on favourable terms.

Kuwaiti Special Envoy Meets With President

BK1808143690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] Dr. Rashid Salim al-'Amiri, special envoy of the Amir of Kuwait, delivered a letter from Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. The letter relates to the consequences of the Iraqi attack on Kuwait. The president apprised the special envoy on Pakistan's principled stand on foreign military intervention and regretted the fact that an Islamic country had launched an aggression against another Islamic country. The president expressed the hope that the crisis will soon be resolved in a peaceful manner.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Refutes Iraqi Claim

BK2008123490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] The Kuwaiti oil minister, Dr. Rashid S. al-'Amiri, now in Pakistan, has said there is no logic in the Iraqi claim that Kuwait is part of Iraq. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he expressed gratitude to the people and Government of Pakistan for their support to the people of Kuwait against the Iraqi occupation of his country.

The ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Mr. (Yusuf Muhammad bin Tabassum) said foreign troops have arrived in his country to help meet the threat posed by Iraq to Saudi Arabia's territorial integrity. He categorically denied the possibility of stationing of foreign forces on Saudi territory for long.

Bhutto Rejects Interim Caretaker Government

Refuses To Recognize

BK1908104090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1022 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 19 (AFP)—Former prime minister Benazir Bhutto said Sunday she refused to recognize the interim government of Caretaker Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi. Ms. Bhutto, addressing a press conference here, described her August 6 sacking as an "unconstitutional coup" whose architects took advantage of the fact that world attention was focused on the Gulf crisis.

But she said she said she was ready to compete in "free and fair" elections in the future so power could be returned to "the people of Pakistan." Ms. Bhutto said she did not recognise the "so-called caretaker prime minister" or his government, which she said should be dissolved in favor of a transitional "neutral" cabinet.

She charged that Mr. Jatoi "was deviating from the constitution by recalling ambassadors" from abroad, when he should have beeen concentrating on organising elections promised by the President Ghulam Ishaq Khan for October 24.

It was not specified which ambassadors had been recalled.

Mr. Ishaq Khan removed Ms. Bhutto's government on August 6, charging corruption and abuse of power. Ms. Bhutto condemned the "illegal sacking" as "a deliberate attempt to discredit the political institutions" of Pakistan. The former premier has said the army was behind her ouster, a charge denied by military leaders.

Once again she rejected accusations of corruption levelled against her and her family circle. "They did the same thing with my father," she said, referring to the military coup which toppled prime minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in 1977.

Demands Neutral Elections Oversight

OW1908110390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0952 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Islamabad Aug. 19 KYODO—Deposed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Sunday demanded a neutral caretaker government to ensure that the elections set for October 24 will be free and fair. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad, the 37-year-old leader of the Pakistan People's Party rebutted allegations of corruption and incompetence against her government, cited by President Ghulam Ishaque Khan as major causes of her dismissal on August 6.

She claimed her government was dismissed not because it was incompetent but because it was too competent. She accused the president of dishonesty in naming her archrivals to constitute the caretaker government but said she would welcome any move toward reconciliation.

Bhutto said she has been told that the caretaker government has volumes of proof of corruption in her government which could be used to bar her from taking part in politics. She said her party would boycott elections if any effort were made to exclude her from politics.

Bhutto also said she plans to prepare a white paper exposing the alleged corruption of her rivals in the caretaker government, including the former chief minister of punjab, Mian Nawaz Shariff.

Says Party to Challenge Dismissal

BK1908154790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] Benazir Bhutto, cochairperson of the Pakistan People's Party, told a news conference in Islamabad today that her party will challenge the dismissal of her government and the dissolution of assemblies in the court of law, adding that the actions were a setback to the democratic process in the country. She questioned the credibility of the caretaker government and its composition, and said that her party will not accept special courts, special laws, and decrees of the caretaker government.

Describing as erroneous the allegations against her government, Benazir Bhutto referred to the achievements of her government in the political, international, and economic fields. She claimed that in spite of its untiring efforts, the caretaker government has not been able to prove the charges of corruption against her. She denied that any member of her government had taken loans on concessional terms or had loans written off.

Misuse of Funds by Bhutto Government Detailed

BK1908165790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] It has been learned that during the rule of the previous regime, many people who changed their political loyalties amassed massive wealth by acquiring loans and funds for their dubious projects, apparently without fulfilling the rules and regulations prescribed by the government. According to reliable sources, these irregularities clearly indicate that the so-called standard bearers of justice, equality, and honesty plundered both the national wealth and government treasury.

The projects approved by the previous government since its assumption of power included eight sugar mills in Sindh, out of which at least three allegedly belong to the Zardari [Bhutto's husband's] family. Apparently these were opened under the names of others. The approval granted for these factories had no justification other than political patronage. A fund of 421 million rupees for the construction of a sugar mill at [name indistinct] was provided to a group from Nawabshah. Four members of this group belonged to a single family whose postal address did not exist. It is said that a sponsor for the Khairpur sugar mill who was given 505 million rupees is a close friend of Asif Zardari. Likewise, 496 million rupees were sanctioned for the Badin sugar mill whose sponsor was Ashiq Ali Bhutto, the uncle of the former prime minister.

Jatoi Discusses Elections, Bhutto Role

BK2008040290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi says his government is determined to hold free and fair elections

on 24 October. In a television interview broadcast by channel four of Britain through satellite Saturday evening [18 October], he said we have already started preparations for elections and they will be held on time.

Asked whether former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will be allowed to take part in the elections, the prime minister said he saw no reason why she should not be allowed to do so. But, he added, it depends on the courts.

The prime minister categorically denied the military was playing a political role and that it was behind the change in the government. He said those reports are all propaganda by the Pakistan People's Party. On the contrary, following the death of General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, the Armed Forces were responsible for restoring democracy in the country by their support for elections in 1988.

He pointed out that the president has powers under the Constitution to act, if conditions warrant, to dissolve the assembly and appoint a caretaker government including the prime minister.

Jatoi on Sindh Situation, IJI Alliance Meeting

BK1808113890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 18 Aug 90

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has said the situation in Sindh is satisfactory. It is improving and becoming normal. He was talking to newsmen in Islamabad today. About the IJI [Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad—Islamic Democratic Alliance] meeting in which he participated as head of the National People's Party, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said there was a good response in the leaders of the component parties to forge a greater alliance. He said it was a meeting of former combined opposition parties and the atmosphere was very positive.

MQM Chairman Says Jatoi Offered Cabinet Position

BK1708170290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Azim Ahmad Tariq, the chairman of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM], has said that his party is fully confident that caretaker Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi will ensure that elections are held in a free, fair, and impartial manner. In an interview with Radio Pakistan's representative in Karachi, he said his party has been invited to join the Federal Cabinet. The offer will be examined, but the final decision will be made only after Altaf Hussai, the MQM leader, returns from London.

The MQM chairman urged the caretaker government to begin the process of accountability immediately.

Former Opposition Parties Reassess Strategy

JUI To Remain Allied to COP

BK1708172290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Hafiz Hussain Ahmad, a leader of the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam [JUI], has described as totally baseless the impression that the JUI intends to review its alliance with the former Combined Opposition Parties [COP]. In a statement in Islamabad today, he said the JUI has been an effective and natural ally of the COP and it is fundamentally opposed to the policies of the Pakistan People's Party. Rejecting a report broadcast over television yesterday and the impression created by it, he asserted that the JUI will remain an effective part of the former COP.

To Contest Elections, Cooperate

BK1908101290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] The constituent parties of the former Combined Opposition Parties, excluding the Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [IJI], in a meeting in Islamabad have decided to contest the upcoming general elections in cooperation with IJI. This was stated by Syeda Abida Hussain, the caretaker federal minister for information and broadcasting, in Islamabad yesterday. The leaders who attended the meeting included Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Maulana Mohammad Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi, Haji Ghulam Ahmad Billour, and Haji Qadar Gul.

To Field 'Consensus' Candidates

BK1908115290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 19 Aug 90

[Text] The caretaker prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, chaired a meeting attended by the leaders of IJI [Islamic Jamhoori Ittehad] and all the other parties and groups which were a part of the former COP [Combined Opposition Parties] in Islamabad today. It was decided at the meeting that consensus candidates picked by all these parties would be selected to contest against the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] candidates in each of the 207 constituencies of the National Assembly of Pakistan and all the constituencies of four provincial assemblies.

Existing Constitutencies Kept in Election Plan

BK2008035490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 Aug 90

[Text] A two-day session of the Election Commission, which concludes in Islamabad yesterday, made a number of important decisions. It decided that preliminary polling schemes for the general elections will be prepared on the basis of existing constituencies. Thirty-five thousand polling stations with 130,000 booths are required throughout the country for 48.5 million voters. The Commission also issued comprehensive guidelines

relating to schedule of elections, logistic requirements, security, and other arrangements for ensuring free and fair polls. For the preparation of polling schemes, the commission ordered the selection of judicial officers and other polling staff who are free from political affiliations and prejudices. The commission also ordered the selection of buildings and placement of polling staff.

Army Withdrawn From Parts of Karachi 17 Aug

BK1708141090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Army troops deployed at security posts in various parts of Karachi were withdrawn today following remarkable improvement in the law and order situation in the city. More than 200 security posts were set up at all important intersections and sensitive areas of the city in the wake of violent incidents and terrorist activities in the month of May. Official sources, however, told Radio Pakistan's correspondent this afternoon that troops will continue to patrol sensitive areas.

Paper Reports Heavy Firing at Kashmir Border

BK1808111490 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 18 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Lawat (AJK) [Azad Jammu and Kashmir], Aug 17—Pakistani and Indian troops along with Control Line Thursday [16 August] exchanged heavy firing at the Boar Sector, 15, miles from Kel.

According to reports reaching Muzaffarabad, at around 9 a.m. the Indian forces without any provocation, opened fire on Boar injuring one person, Allah Din, who was rushed to the Combined Military Hospital, Muzaffarabad. Pakistani troops returned the fire.

The firing continued till night paralysing life in the villages adjacent to the Control Line.

On Aug. 12 the Indian forces had launched a major attack on Kel sector using heavy artillery and mortar. The attack was repulsed by Pakistani troops.